HISTORICAL RECORDS

OF

THE BRITISH ARMY.

REFERENCE BOOK

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U81

BY COMMAND OF His late Majesty WILLIAM THE IVth.

and under the Patronage of

Her Majesty the Queen.

016



HISTORICAL RECORDS,

OF THE

British Army

Comprising the

History of every Regiment,

IN HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

By Richard Cannon Esq.re

Adjutant Generals Office, Horse Guards.

London.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

HORSE-GUARDS,
1st January, 1836.

HIS MAJESTY has been pleased to command, that, with a view of doing the fullest justice to Regiments, as well as to Individuals who have distinguished themselves by their Bravery in Action with the Enemy, an Account of the Services of every Regiment in the British Army shall be published under the superintendence and direction of the Adjutant-General; and that this Account shall contain the following particulars, viz.,

—— The Period and Circumstances of the Original Formation of the Regiment; The Stations at which it has been from time to time employed; The Battles, Sieges, and other Military Operations, in which it has been engaged, particularly specifying any Achievement it may have performed, and the Colours, Trophies, &c., it may have captured from the Enemy.

—— The Names of the Officers and the number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, Killed or Wounded by the Enemy, specifying the Place and Date of the Action.

—— The Names of those Officers, who, in consideration of their Gallant Services and Meritorious Conduct in Engagements with the Enemy, have been distinguished with Titles, Medals, or other Marks of His Majesty's gracious favour.

—— The Names of all such Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates as may have specially signalized themselves in Action.

And,

—— The Badges and Devices which the Regiment may have been permitted to bear, and the Causes on account of which such Badges or Devices, or any other Marks of Distinction, have been granted.

By Command of the Right Honourable
GENERAL LORD HILL,
Commanding-in-Chief.

JOHN MACDONALD,
Adjutant-General.

PREFACE.

THE character and credit of the British Army must chiefly depend upon the zeal and ardour, by which all who enter into its service are animated, and consequently it is of the highest importance that any measure calculated to excite the spirit of emulation, by which alone great and gallant actions are achieved, should be adopted.

Nothing can more fully tend to the accomplishment of this desirable object, than a full display of the noble deeds with which the Military History of our country abounds. To hold forth these bright examples to the imitation of the youthful soldier, and thus to incite him to emulate the meritorious conduct of those who have preceded him in their honourable career, are among the motives that have given rise to the present publication.

The operations of the British Troops are, indeed, announced in the "London Gazette," from whence they are transferred into the public prints: the achievements of our armies are thus made known at the time of their occurrence, and receive the tribute of praise and admiration to which they are entitled. On extraordinary occasions, the Houses of Parliament have been in the habit of conferring on the Commanders, and the Officers and Troops acting under

their orders, expressions of approbation and of thanks for their skill and bravery, and these testimonials, confirmed by the high honour of their Sovereign's Approbation, constitute the reward which the soldier most highly prizes.

It has not, however, until late years, been the practice (which appears to have long prevailed in some of the Continental armies) for British Regiments to keep regular records of their services and achievements. Hence some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining, particularly from the old Regiments, an authentic account of their origin and subsequent services.

This defect will now be remedied, in consequence of His Majesty having been pleased to command, that every Regiment shall in future keep a full and ample record of its services at home and abroad.

From the materials thus collected, the country will henceforth derive information as to the difficulties and privations which chequer the career of those who embrace the military profession. In Great Britain, where so large a number of persons are devoted to the active concerns of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, and where these pursuits have, for so long a period, been undisturbed by the *presence of war*, which few other countries have escaped, comparatively little is known of the vicissitudes of active service, and of the casualties of climate, to which, even during peace, the British Troops are exposed in every part of the globe, with little or no interval of repose.

In their tranquil enjoyment of the blessings which the

country derives from the industry and the enterprise of the agriculturist and the trader, its happy inhabitants may be supposed not often to reflect on the perilous duties of the soldier and the sailor,—on their sufferings,—and on the sacrifice of valuable life, by which so many national benefits are obtained and preserved.

The conduct of the British Troops, their valour, and endurance, have shone conspicuously under great and trying difficulties; and their character has been established in Continental warfare by the irresistible spirit with which they have effected debarkations in spite of the most formidable opposition, and by the gallantry and steadiness with which they have maintained their advantages against superior numbers.

In the official Reports made by the respective Commanders, ample justice has generally been done to the gallant exertions of the Corps employed; but the details of their services, and of acts of individual bravery, can only be fully given in the Annals of the various Regiments.

These Records are now preparing for publication, under His Majesty's special authority, by Mr. RICHARD CANNON, Principal Clerk of the Adjutant-General's Office; and while the perusal of them cannot fail to be useful and interesting to military men of every rank, it is considered that they will also afford entertainment and information to the general reader, particularly to those who may have served in the Army, or who have relatives in the Service.

There exists in the breasts of most of those who have

served, or are serving, in the Army, an *Esprit de Corps*—an attachment to every thing belonging to their Regiment; to such persons a narrative of the services of their own Corps cannot fail to prove interesting. Authentic accounts of the actions of the great,—the valiant,—the loyal, have always been of paramount interest with a brave and civilized people. Great Britain has produced a race of heroes who, in moments of danger and terror, have stood, "firm as the rocks of their native shore;" and when half the World has been arrayed against them, they have fought the battles of their Country with unshaken fortitude. It is presumed that a record of achievements in war,—victories so complete and surprising, gained by our countrymen,—our brothers,—our fellow-citizens in arms,—a record which revives the memory of the brave, and brings their gallant deeds before us, will certainly prove acceptable to the public.

Biographical memoirs of the Colonels and other distinguished Officers, will be introduced in the Records of their respective Regiments, and the Honorary Distinctions which have, from time to time, been conferred upon each Regiment, as testifying the value and importance of its services, will be faithfully set forth.

As a convenient mode of Publication, the Record of each Regiment will be printed in a distinct number, so that when the whole shall be completed, the Parts may be bound up in numerical succession.

HISTORICAL RECORD

OF

THE SIXTEENTH,

OR

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS,

LANCERS:

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF

THE FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT

IN 1759,

AND OF ITS

SUBSEQUENT SERVICES

TO

1841.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A PLATE OF THE UNIFORM.

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THE SIXTEENTH,

OR

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF

LANCERS,

BEARS ON ITS STANDARDS AND APPOINTMENTS THE WORDS

"TALAVERA." "FUENTES D'ONOR."
"SALAMANCA." "VITTORIA." "NIVE."
"PENINSULA." "WATERLOO."
"BHURTPORE."
"AFFGHANISTAN." "GHUZNEE."

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SIXTEENTH (THE QUEEN'S) LANCERS

HISTORICAL RECORD

OF

THE SIXTEENTH,

OR,

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS;—

LANCERS.

THE year 1759 is conspicuous in the military annals of this kingdom, as the era of Light Cavalry regiments being placed on the establishment of the army for permanent service. In the early part of the eighteenth century, the prowess of the British heavy horse had been proved on the banks of the Danube, on the plains of the Mehaine, in the sanguinary field of Malplaquet, in the valley of Almanara, and on the banks of the Ebro; the enemies of Great Britain were humbled, and the din of war was succeeded by tranquillity. New commotions in Europe called 1759

1759 forth fresh exertions; King George II. witnessed the triumph of his heavy troopers over the steel-clad horsemen of France in the field of Dettingen;—and in the seven years' war, when the restless ambition of his enemies rendered additional efforts necessary, the British Monarch added to the forces of his empire, cavalry regiments uniting greater lightness, speed, and activity, with strength and power. Suddenly the light horsemen of Great Britain appeared in the field; they rivalled the heavy troopers in feats of valour, and qualities were combined in those troops, which have enabled them to acquire a celebrity seldom equalled by the cavalry of any nation.

THE SIXTEENTH, OR THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF LANCERS, is the second regiment of light cavalry raised in Great Britain for permanent service; the formation of this regiment was confided to Lieut.-Colonel John Burgoyne, from the Second Foot Guards, an officer of distinguished abilities, who had served some time in the Eleventh Dragoons, and was appointed Lieut.-Colonel Commandant of the SIXTEENTH by commission, dated the 4th of August, 1759. It consisted, in the first instance, of four troops, raised by Captains the Honorable William Gor-

don, Edward Walpole, Henry Laws Lutterell, 1759
and Sir William Peere Williams, Baronet.

The general rendezvous of the regiment was at Northampton; but recruits were obtained from various parts of the country, particularly from London and its vicinity, where the regiments of light horse were a subject of particular interest. Great success attended the exertions to procure men and horses, and in October an augmentation of two troops was ordered, which was followed by the appointment of Captain the Honorable Hugh Somerville, of the Second Dragoon Guards, to the commission of Major.

In the beginning of 1760, the following offi- 1760
cers were holding commissions in the regiment:—

Lieut.-Colonel Commandant, JOHN BURGOYNE.
Major, THE HON. HUGH SOMERVILLE.

Captains.	*Lieutenants.*	*Cornets.*
Hon. W. Gordon	Robt. Kingston	John Walmesley
Edward Walpole	John Jennings	Le Gendre Starkie
H. Laws Lutterell	James Lewes	Samuel Griffiths
Sir W. P. Williams, Bt.	Josiah Hart	Henry Hodsden
Hon. Wm. Harcourt	Chas. Maitland	Sir R McKenzie, Bt.
Sir. G. Osborne, Bt.	W. Addington	L. S. Spencer

Adjutant, Samuel Griffiths,—*Surgeon*, John Hutchings,
Chaplain, the Rev. John Smith.

Such were the zeal and attention of the officers, that in February, 1760, the regiment was so far organized and brought into a state of dis-

1760 cipline and efficiency, as to be ordered to march to Scotland. It returned to England in July, when the head-quarters were established at Hertford, and in October it was ordered to hold itself in readiness to embark for foreign service; but its departure was delayed for some months.

1761 In the spring of 1761, a small expedition was fitted out against *Belle Isle*, a French island in the Bay of Biscay, off the coast of Brittany, and the troops were placed under the orders of Major-General Studholme Hodgson. An unsuccessful attempt to effect a landing having been made on the 7th of April, and greater opposition experienced than had been expected, two troops of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, commanded by Captains Sir William Peere Williams, Bart., and Sir George Osborne, Bart., embarked at Portsmouth to join the expedition. On the 25th of April, while the enemy's attention was engaged by two feint attacks, a party of grenadiers, under Brigadier-General Lambert, climbed the rocks near point Lochmaria, repulsed three hundred French troops, and a few prisoners, with three guns, were taken. The artillery was landed and dragged up the rocks, the two troops of the SIXTEENTH disembarked, and the works which covered

the town of St. Palais were carried by assault. 1761
The citadel was defended by a body of men under the Chevalier St. Croix, a brave officer, who made a vigorous defence. While the siege was in progress, the two troops of the SIXTEENTH were actively employed; and in this service they gave presage of that gallantry for which the regiment afterwards became distinguished. The French made repeated sallies, and were, on several occasions, charged by the light dragoons with the most distinguished bravery, and pursued to the walls of the castle. The regiment lost several men and horses in these services, and on one occasion, Captain Sir William Peere Williams, Bart., an officer of great promise, was killed. In June the castle surrendered, and the island was thus captured by the British troops.

In the mean time the Sovereigns of France and Spain were endeavouring, by arguments and menaces, to induce the King of Portugal to unite with them against Great Britain. At this period Portugal was extremely weak; Lisbon, the capital, had been destroyed by an earthquake in 1755, and nearly thirty thousand inhabitants buried in its ruins; this disaster had been followed by a conspiracy against the King's life, and the king-

1761 dom had been shaken by commotions; at the same time the army was weak in numbers, and deficient in arms, discipline, and experienced officers; but, notwithstanding his own weakness and the menaces of France and Spain, the King of Portugal adhered to his alliance with Great Britain, and he was furnished with a body of troops, also with a quantity of artillery, arms, stores, and money, by the British government. The SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were selected to
1762 proceed to Portugal; four troops embarked from Portsmouth in May, 1762, and landing at Lisbon on the 9th of June, marched a few stages up the country to Abrantes, where they were joined by the two troops from Belle Isle. The allied army in Portugal was commanded by Marshal Count de la Lippe; the British were under the orders of Lieut.-General the Earl of Loudoun, and Colonel Burgoyne had the local rank of brigadier-general.

The regiment was afterwards employed in the Alentejo; and in August it had an opportunity of distinguishing itself at the surprise of *Valencia de Alcantara*, where it was reported that the Spaniards were assembling troops and preparing magazines for the invasion of the Alentejo. To engage in this service, the SIXTEENTH, mustering

four hundred rank and file, under Major the 1762
Honorable Hugh Somerville, crossed the Tagus at midnight on the 23rd of August, and proceeded by forced marches to Castel de Vide; the men dismounting from time to time, to permit the grenadiers, who accompanied them, to ride, that the whole might be enabled to perform the march in time. On the night of the 26th, the troops employed in this enterprise, under Brigadier-General Burgoyne, left Castel de Vide, the SIXTEENTH taking the lead, and passing the confines of Portugal, approached *Valencia de Alcantara* as the rays of the sun were beginning to illuminate the horizon. All was tranquil in the town, and the advanced-guard of forty men of the SIXTEENTH, under Lieut. James Lewes, finding the avenues clear, galloped along the main street, sword in hand, and was followed by the regiment. The Spanish soldiers, alarmed at the noise, leaped out of their beds, and seizing their arms, fired a few shots from the windows; but the SIXTEENTH pressed forward to the great square, where they attacked the main guard, and cut down or made prisoners every man; at the same time, other parties of the regiment secured the ends of the streets. In a few moments the regiment was formed in

1762 the square; the Spaniards assembled in small bodies and attacked the British dragoons, who soon destroyed, took prisoners, or dispersed their opponents. The Spanish regiment of Seville was annihilated; three stands of colours were captured; Major-General Don Michael de Irunibeni, his aide-de-camp, a colonel, and a number of other officers, were taken prisoners, and, on the arrival of the grenadiers, all further opposition ceased. The SIXTEENTH were then detached to scour the adjacent country and intercept the fugitives, and they brought in a number of horses, but the Spanish soldiers concealed themselves. One small detachment of a serjeant and six men of the SIXTEENTH, penetrated a considerable distance into the country, and encountered an officer and twenty-five Spanish dragoons. The Spaniards advanced to charge the British, who were undismayed by the superior number of their opponents; and these seven lion-like champions dashed upon their adversaries with such resolution, and used their broad swords with such effect, that in a few moments six Spaniards lay dead upon the road, and the other twenty demanded quarter, and were marched prisoners, with twenty-six horses, into the town. A quantity of arms and ammuni-

tion was afterwards seized; hostages were taken 1762
for the payment of a year's revenue, and the troops withdrew across the frontiers.

The conduct of the regiment, on this occasion, was commended by the Count de la Lippe, in his public despatch. Brigadier-General Burgoyne, in his report of this action to General Viscount Ligonier, considered the conduct of his regiment so extraordinary, that he added, "Believe me, my "Lord, this is no exaggeration, but real fact. I "am conscious, that the chief merit of the suc- "cess was due to the admirable valour and "activity of the troops. Lieut.-Colonel Somer- "ville distinguished himself in this affair in the "manner his best friends could wish;" and the following paragraph appeared in general orders, dated the 29th of August,—"The field-marshal "thinks it his duty to acquaint the army with the "glorious conduct of Brigadier Burgoyne, who, "after having marched fifteen leagues without "halting, took Valencia de Alcantara sword in "hand, made the general who was to have in- "vaded the Alentejo prisoner, destroyed the "Spanish regiment of Seville, took three stands "of colours, a colonel, many officers of distinc- "tion, and a great number of soldiers."

1762 Soon after this event, a Spanish army of very superior numbers invaded Portugal; but the dauntless countenance of the British troops overawed their opponents. Some retrograde movements were, however, necessary, and in the beginning of October, fifty men of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were engaged in covering the retreat of Count St. Jago's Portuguese battalions from the pass of Alvito, towards *Sobrina Formosa*, on which occasion the dragoons evinced great spirit and activity.

To arrest the progress of the enemy, a body of troops occupied the southern bank of the Tagus opposite *Villa Velha*, under the command of Brigadier-General Burgoyne. The enemy captured the old Moorish castle on the other side of the river, and a body of Spaniards occupied two eminences in the plain of Villa Velha. On the 4th of October, fifty men of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, and a few Portuguese horse, advanced to a ravine two miles up the river, where they were joined on the following day by a number of royal volunteers and grenadiers, and Colonel Lee assumed the command. Leaving this place of concealment during the night of the 5th, the troops forded the river, and making a detour

through unfrequented tracts in the mountains, 1762
gained the rear of the Spanish camps on the two eminences about two o'clock on the following morning. The grenadiers and volunteers rushed forward and bayonetted the Spaniards in their tents; the shrieks and cries of the wounded and the dying, with a few straggling shots, gave the alarm, and some Spanish cavalry attempted to make a stand; but they were charged by the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, under Lieut. Charles Maitland, who broke in upon the adverse ranks and cut them down with a terrible carnage, while the infantry continued the work of destruction with the bayonet, and the surviving soldiers of the enemy fled without making further resistance. The Spanish magazines were taken and destroyed; six pieces of cannon, sixty artillery mules, some horses, and a considerable quantity of valuable baggage, were captured. The loss of the regiment was limited to one corporal killed, and two private soldiers wounded; four horses killed, and six wounded. "So brilliant a stroke," observed Count de la Lippe, in his public despatch, "speaks for "itself and there is no necessity to lengthen this "letter with the well-deserved applause due to "Brigadier-General Burgoyne, as well as to Colonel

1762 " Lee, and the British troops. I shall only con-
" clude with doing my duty upon this occasion,
" in acquainting your Lordship with the gallant
" behaviour of the troops, and recommending those
" under whose command they again acquired so
" much glory, to your Lordship's protection, and
" to His Majesty."

This advantage, obtained at a critical moment, disheartened the Spaniards, who fell back to their own frontiers, and Portugal was thus saved by British skill and valour. The regiment went into quarters in Portugal, and a treaty of peace was soon afterwards concluded at Fontainbleau.

1763 The regiment received the thanks of Parliament for its conduct during the war, and returned to England in the spring of 1763. It was reviewed by King George III., on Wimbledon
1764 Common, on the 18th of June, 1764, when His Majesty was pleased to express his high approbation of its appearance and discipline.

1765 The condition, spirit, and activity of the light cavalry, was a subject of great interest at court; the conduct of the Fifteenth in Germany, and of the SIXTEENTH in Portugal, had given His Majesty a high opinion of the merits of these two favourite corps; and when the King reviewed

them in brigade, on the 20th of May, 1766, on Wimbledon Common, he was so much pleased with their condition, that he commanded the *Fifteenth* to be, in future, styled "THE KING'S," and the SIXTEENTH, "THE QUEEN'S," Light Dragoons. 1766

On the 25th of May, 1767, the King's and QUEEN'S regiments of Light Dragoons were again reviewed on Wimbledon Common by His Majesty, who repeated his former expressions of approbation. 1767

The following particulars respecting the clothing and guidons of the SIXTEENTH, OR THE QUEEN'S Light Dragoons, are extracted from the King's warrant, issued in 1768. 1768

HELMETS,—with horse-hair crests

COATS,—scarlet; blue half-lappels, and the sleeves turned up with blue; the buttons of white metal, set on two and two; a blue cloth epaulette on each shoulder, with a narrow worsted fringe.

WAISTCOATS AND BREECHES,—white.

BOOTS,—reaching to the knee.

CLOAKS,—scarlet, with white linings and blue capes.

HORSE FURNITURE,—white cloth housing and holster caps, with a border of royal lace; the Queen's cipher within the garter, embroidered on

1768 each corner of the housing; and on the holster caps, the King's cipher with the crown over it, and XVI. L.D. underneath.

TRUMPETERS,—to wear hats with scarlet feathers; scarlet coats faced with blue, and ornamented with yellow lace, having a blue stripe down the centre.

GUIDONS,—the first, or King's guidon, to be of crimson silk; in the centre, the rose and thistle conjoined, and crown over them, with the motto, *Dieu et mon Droit*, underneath; the white horse in a compartment in the first and fourth corners, and XVI. L.D. in gold characters, on a blue ground, in the second and third corners: the second and third guidons to be of blue silk; in the centre, the Queen's cipher within the garter, with the motto, *Aut cursu, aut cominus armis**, underneath; the white horse on a scarlet ground, in the first and fourth corners; and XVI. L.D. on a scarlet ground, within a small wreath of roses and thistles, in the second and third corners: the third guidon to be distinguished by a figure 3, on a circular red ground, under the motto.

King George III. continued to take so much

* Either in speed, or in close combat.

interest in the condition of the regiments of light 1769
cavalry, that he reviewed the Fifteenth and SIX-
TEENTH in brigade, on Wimbledon Common, on
the 8th of May, 1769; again on the 16th of
April, 1770; and at Blackheath, on the 23rd of 1770
May, 1771, and, also, on the 9th of May, 1774, 1771
on which occasions His Majesty was pleased to 1774
express his royal approbation of the appearance,
efficiency, and discipline of the two corps.

In the following year the British North Ame- 1775
rican colonies took up arms against the mother
country; this was followed by a contest, which,
not being entered into by the British government
with sufficient vigour at the commencement, was
protracted during a period of eight years, when it
was terminated by acknowledging the independ-
ence of the United States. The SIXTEENTH Light
Dragoons were selected to proceed to North
America at an early period in the war; their
establishment was augmented, and they were, in
the first instance, ordered to embark for Boston;
but that place having been evacuated in March,
1776, some delay occurred. The regiment, how- 1776
ever, embarked at Portsmouth in the summer of
the same year, and sailed for New York, under
the command of Lieut.-Colonel the Honorable

1776 William (afterwards Earl) Harcourt. It experienced much severe weather at sea, and did not arrive at New York until the beginning of October, (and one transport was missing for some time afterwards.) On the 20th of October the regiment joined the army, and was engaged at the battle of *White Plains*, on the 28th of October, but its loss was only two men and one horse wounded, and one man missing.

The Americans withdrew from their fortified camp, and avoided an action, and the British general gave up the pursuit, and undertook the reduction of King's-bridge and Fort Washington.

After the capture of the forts, Lord Cornwallis was detached with a body of troops across the Hudson's river, when the enemy abandoned Fort Lee on the 18th of November. The SIXTEENTH embarked from York Island on the following day, for New Jersey, and they traversed the island in various directions, the American troops falling back in disorder, while the British detachments penetrated to the Delaware river.

The American *General Lee*, obtaining intelligence of the movements of the British, and of the defenceless condition of the banks of the Delaware towards Philadelphia, crossed the North River

at King's-ferry with between two and three thou- 1776
sand men and some artillery, and continuing his route through Morris County to cross the Delaware to the northward of Trenton, arrived at Baskinridge, where his troops encamped. On the morning of the 13th of December, he rode out, with a slender guard, to gain intelligence, and halted at a house three miles from his camp, to take breakfast. In the mean time, thirty men of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel the Honorable William Harcourt, were advancing from Pennington to gain information; they met a countryman whom General Lee had despatched with a letter, and by interrogatories and menaces, they gained intelligence from this man, where the General had halted and how his guard was posted. By infinite address they contrived to get to the house undiscovered by the guard, and, surprising the sentinel, made prisoners, General Lee and a French officer, whom they conveyed to head-quarters. The loss of General Lee was a severe blow to the American cause: he had been a soldier from his youth, had risen to the rank of lieut.-colonel in the British service, and had served with reputation in America and in Portugal during the seven

1776 years' war, and his military knowledge was great; he commanded the troops at the surprise of the Spanish camp at Villa Velha, where a detachment of the SIXTEENTH distinguished itself under his orders in October, 1762*. He remained in captivity until the American Colonel Barton surprised and made prisoner the commandant of the British troops on Rhode Island, Major-General Prescott, who was exchanged for General Lee.

1777 The SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were stationed during the winter in New Jersey. Several skirmishes occurred between foraging parties, and the British soldiers maintained their high character for courage and discipline. On the 3rd of June, 1777, a large remount of horses arrived from England, and soon afterwards the regiment took the field; but the American General, Washington, kept his army in the strongholds in the hills, and General Sir William Howe, being unable to bring his opponent to battle, undertook an enterprise against Philadelphia. To engage in this service, the regiment embarked in July at Sandy Hook, sailed to Chesapeak Bay, and, proceeding up the Elk River, landed at Elk Ferry towards the end of August. To oppose the

* See page 18.

advance of the British upon Philadelphia, the 1777
American army took up a position at *Brandywine Creek*, and on the 11th of September an engagement took place. One squadron of the SIXTEENTH was attached to Major-General Grant's column, which advanced upon Chads-ford, from whence the enemy was driven with the loss of five pieces of cannon and a howitzer: the other two squadrons were attached to Lord Cornwallis' column, which moved against the enemy's right; and the American army was driven from its position.

General Washington retreated to Philadelphia, from whence he fell back along the Lancaster road. One squadron of the SIXTEENTH formed part of the force under Lord Cornwallis, which took possession of the city of Philadelphia; and the other two squadrons formed the right of the British army encamped at *Germantown*. At day-break on the morning of the 4th of October, the Americans attacked the British position; the two squadrons of the SIXTEENTH, on the right, were at their post, and the other squadron advanced from Philadelphia with all possible expedition. The ground was not favorable for cavalry; but one troop of the SIXTEENTH had an opportunity of charging and "behaved most

1777 "gallantly*." The adverse army was repulsed, and the squadron of the SIXTEENTH arriving from Philadelphia at the moment the battle ceased, it pursued the Americans for eight miles along the Skippach road. The regiment had one man and three horses killed; four men wounded.

From Germantown, the regiment moved to the immediate vicinity of Philadelphia; it formed part of the force which advanced in the beginning of December, to reconnoitre the American camp at White Marsh; and it passed the winter in comfortable quarters in the capital of Pennsylvania.

On the return of spring, a succession of de-
1778 tachments scoured the country for many miles round Philadelphia and the province of Jersey, in quest of forage; and, on one occasion, a small detachment of the SIXTEENTH took a party of American soldiers prisoners.

A loyal gentleman of Philadelphia meeting a drove of oxen on its way to the enemy's camp at Valley Forge, pretended to be one of General Washington's commissaries, and, directing the drovers to halt with their cattle for the night at a neighbouring farm, galloped to Philadelphia and gave notice what he had done, when a detachment

* Sir William Howe's despatch.

of the SIXTEENTH was sent out, and brought in 1778
the cattle for the use of the British troops.

Nine hundred Americans under Brigadier-General Lacy, took post at a place called *Crooked Billet*, on one of the great roads of communication, from whence parties overawed and impeded the country people who brought provision to the market at Philadelphia. On the evening of the 3rd of May, 1778, two squadrons of the regiment, and four hundred light infantry, were detached to co-operate with a party of rangers in an attack on the enemy. The advance-guard approached the American camp soon after day-break, when Brigadier-General Lacy collected his troops and commenced retreating; he was attacked; and one hundred and fifty Americans were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. Thirty dragoons intercepted the enemy's baggage, which Sir William Howe ordered to be sold and divided among the soldiers employed in this enterprize, and it produced a dollar for each man.

The Marquis de la Fayette advanced, with three thousand Americans, to *Barren Hill*, seven miles in front of General Washington's camp at Valley Forge; and the SIXTEENTH Dragoons formed part of the force which left Philadelphia

1778 on the night of the 20th of May, to surprise the Americans on the following morning. The enemy, having intelligence of the march, made a precipitate retreat; but his rear-guard was overtaken at Matsons-ford, by a troop of the SIXTEENTH Dragoons, and about forty Americans were killed and taken prisoners.

In the mean time, the King of France had concluded a treaty with, and agreed to aid, the revolted British subjects, which so completely changed the nature of the contest, that it was necessary to evacuate Philadelphia and concentrate the army at New York. The army crossed the Delaware in June, and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons took part in covering the retreat through a wild and woody country intersected by rivers, and abounding in narrow and rugged passes. After marching several days along the eastern bank of the Delaware, the army proceeded through the Jerseys, followed by the enemy, and encamped on the 27th of June, near *Freehold* Court-house, in the county of Monmouth. On the following morning the army resumed its march, the SIXTEENTH forming the rear-guard; the enemy appeared in force on both flanks, and the American cavalry approaching, " were charged

" with great spirit by the QUEEN'S Light Dra- 1778
" goons*," and driven back in confusion upon their infantry. Some sharp fighting afterwards took place, and the Seventeenth Light Dragoons were ordered from the front, but the enemy was repulsed before they arrived.

The army continued its march, crossed the channel to Sandy Hook in the beginning of July, and embarked from thence for New York.

The regiment had sustained a severe loss while employed in detached services and in the fatiguing duties incident to so long a march from Philadelphia to New York, and it transferred its horses to other corps, sent a detachment dismounted to the West Indies, and embarked for England, where it was stationed in the summer of 1779. 1779

In the autumn of this year, Lieut.-General Burgoyne resigned the command of the regiment. He had been placed in 1777, at the head of a body of troops designed to force their way from Canada to Albany; but after evincing skill and determination, and overcoming numerous difficulties, he found himself on the banks of the Hudson's river, with three thousand five hundred

* London Gazette.

1779 men, reduced in strength by incessant effort and want of provision, and invested by an army of sixteen thousand Americans; under these circumstances, he concluded the convention of Saratoga. His conduct was censured; he defended himself with great warmth in Parliament; and the altercation, which ensued, ended in his resigning the colonelcy of the Queen's regiment of Light Dragoons. He was succeeded by Colonel the Honourable William Harcourt, from the lieut.-colonelcy of the regiment, by commission dated the 20th of October, 1779.

1781 In 1781, the regiment, having recruited its numbers and procured horses, was encamped at Lenham, in Kent, with the Twentieth Foot and three battalions of militia, under the command
1782 of Lieut.-General Frazer; and in 1782, three troops were encamped at Grange, near Portsmouth.

1783 At the termination of the American war, in 1783, the establishment was reduced to six troops of three officers, two serjeants, two corporals, one trumpeter, one farrier, and twenty-six private soldiers each.

1784 In April, 1784, the colour of the officers' and men's coats was changed from scarlet to *blue*.

The clothing of a private soldier of the regi- 1784
ment at this period, was a blue jacket lined with white, scarlet collar and cuffs, and looped across the breast and edged with white cord; white waistcoat; white leather breeches; boots, and helmet. The serjeants were distinguished by silver loopings; the corporals by a silver cord round the collar and cuffs; and the trumpeters wore scarlet coats with lace instead of looping.

From the date of its return from America, 1785
the regiment remained in England for fourteen years; it took its turn in the escort duty for the royal family; also furnished, from time to time, parties to assist the officers of the revenue in the prevention of smuggling, in the maritime towns and villages; and it was repeatedly reviewed by King George III., and by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duke of York, who were pleased to express their approbation of its appearance and discipline.

In 1792, when the French republicans had 1792
seized on the person of their sovereign, and their violent proceedings were likely to lead to a war, the establishment of the regiment was augmented to forty-three men and forty-three horses per troop.

1793 The French revolutionists having beheaded their sovereign, this atrocious act was followed by hostilities between Great Britain and the regicides, and in the spring of 1793, a body of British troops embarked for the Netherlands. The establishment of the QUEEN'S regiment of Light Dragoons was augmented to nine troops; and on the 24th of April, four troops, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Robert Laurie, Bart., embarked on the river Thames, at Blackwall, and sailed to Ostend, from whence they marched to Tournay, where his Royal Highness the Duke of York had established his head-quarters; two squadrons of the Seventh, Eleventh, Fifteenth, and SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, formed a brigade under Major-General Ralph Dundas.

Advancing from Tournay, on the 19th of May, the SIXTEENTH arrived at the Austrian camp at Quiverain on the 22nd; and on the following day they reached the bank of the Ronelle at an early hour. The river was passed; and the French batteries being taken in flank, their numerous legions were forced to evacuate the camp at *Famars*. Here the regiment first encountered the republican troops; it passed the river at a ford in the village of Mershe, and turned the enemy's

flank; the morning was serene and clear, the line 1793
of battle extended for several miles, and a very animating scene presented itself as the SIXTEENTH moved against the opposing legions and took part in driving them from their fortified post.

Valenciennes was besieged by the troops under the Duke of York, and the SIXTEENTH took part in the duties connected with this enterprize. The first piquet furnished by the regiment, was posted for fourteen hours under an epaulement, and exposed, during the whole of the time, to a shower of shells; the men were dismounted, with their horses in hand, and the embankment was so well constructed, that the only loss was a few horses wounded. At the storming of the breach, on the 25th of July, the piquet, under Captain Hawker, supported the attack.

After the surrender of Valenciennes, the SIXTEENTH marched towards *Cambray*, in the vicinity of which fortress they arrived on the 8th of August, making a circuit on the south side to the village of Bourler; on the 10th, the regiment made a detour on the north side of Cambray, and after passing the village of Bourmont, suddenly found itself close to five thousand French infantry formed in a ravine, with cavalry on the flanks.

1793 Major-General Ralph Dundas immediately ordered the regiment to retire, which it did with the loss of a few men; before facing about, Lieutenant William Archer had the temerity to fire a double-barrel pistol at the French line.

From Cambray the regiment marched towards *Dunkirk*, and it formed the advance-guard of the force which attacked the French posts between the canal of Furnes and the sea, on the 24th of August, on which occasion the enemy was driven into the town. At the conclusion of the attack, Lieut.-General D'Alton, a distinguished officer in the Austrian service, was killed at the head of the regiment, by a shot from a redoubt that commanded the chaussée leading to the town. The arrival of the naval force and of the battering train was so long delayed, that the enemy had time to assemble an overpowering force, and compelled the Duke of York to raise the siege of Dunkirk; on withdrawing from before this place, the SIXTEENTH and Thirty-seventh Foot formed the rearguard of the besieging force.

In the subsequent operations of this year, the SIXTEENTH were not seriously engaged. At the close of the campaign the head-quarters were at Tournay, and the regiment furnished piquets

on the road to Lisle. For three successive 1793
mornings, the piquet under Captain Charles Smith, with the piquet of the Inniskilling Dragoons under Captain Hammond, and the piquet of the Esterhazy Hussars, at the posts of Willem and Sailly, not far from Pont à Tressin, were attacked under the cover of a thick fog by a most overpowering force. The SIXTEENTH covered the retreat of the out-posts each morning, and sustained some loss; but the ground was afterwards recovered with much slaughter of the French. Previous to this date, Sir Robert Laurie had been promoted to the rank of major-general, and placed at the head of a brigade, and the command of the regiment devolved on Captain Samuel Hawker.

The winter was passed by the regiment in 1794
occupying quarters near the enemy's posts, and in furnishing videts and out-guards, and early in the spring of 1794, it took the field. At the attack of the enemy's positions on the 17th of April, one squadron was attached to the column under the Duke of York's immediate command, intended to carry the village of *Vaux*, and was ordered by His Royal Highness to accompany some foreign hussars round a wood to the right,

1794 by which movement a body of French troops was cut off, and many men killed and wounded. The Duke of York in person directed the SIXTEENTH to charge a nine-gun battery covered with cavalry, which was executed with great gallantry, and four pieces of cannon and a howitzer were captured. The other squadron of the SIXTEENTH advanced under Lieut.-General Sir William Erskine, against *Prémont*, and formed part of the force detached under Lieut.-General Harcourt, against the enemy's flank. The French were driven from their ground, and night and a contiguous wood favoured their escape.

The siege of *Landrecies* being undertaken, the regiment encamped at an out-post in front of *Cateau*, where the British army was in position covering the siege. The morning of the 26th of April was foggy; before break of day a few pistol shots, and now and then a shout, came faintly from the mist which covered the villages in front of the camp; and so impetuous was the attack of the enemy, that the videts were instantly driven in, and the SIXTEENTH were aroused by a few shots fired among their tents; at the same time the officers' baggage was captured by the French. The temerity of the enemy on this occasion was,

however, punished by the SIXTEENTH and Barco's 1794
hussars (Germans), who charged, killed, and made prisoners, a number of opponents; and Prince Schwartzenburg requested the trumpeters of the SIXTEENTH to sound the assembly, and, if possible, to collect a sufficient force to cut off this column of the enemy; but the French discovered the critical situation into which this rash advance had brought them, and fell back with the utmost rapidity. The Duke of York, surveying the field of battle from the top of a redoubt, observed that the enemy's left flank was uncovered, and His Royal Highness detached the cavalry of the right wing, including the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, to take advantage of this omission; this movement completely succeeded; the enemy was broken, thrown into confusion, and chased from the field with great slaughter and the loss of a quantity of cannon, and a number of officers and soldiers made prisoners. In his public despatch, the Duke of York declared the conduct of the British cavalry was "*beyond all praise;*" and it was stated in general orders, "The Aus-
" trian regiment of Cuirassiers of Zetchwitz, the
" Blues, First, Third, and Fifth Dragoon Guards,
" the Royals, Archduke Ferdinand's Hussars, and

1794 " the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, who attacked " and defeated the principal column of the " enemy on the right, have all acquired immortal " honour to themselves."

The SIXTEENTH had one man and six horses killed; fourteen rank and file and twelve horses wounded.

On the surrender of Landrecies, the regiment proceeded by forced marches to *Tournay*, where the British troops were attacked on the 10th of May, by thirty thousand of the enemy; and the SIXTEENTH formed part of the force detached, under Lieut.-General Harcourt, against the right flank of the French army. The British dragoons were again victorious; the enemy's legions were overpowered and driven from the field; and the SIXTEENTH highly distinguished themselves in a charge upon a field battery of eight guns, supported by cavalry and infantry, which were routed, and the guns captured. The commanding officer, Captain Samuel Hawker, had his horse killed under him, and was wounded; Lieut. William Archer, two serjeants, five rank and file, and seven horses, wounded; three men and two horses killed.

At the general attack on the enemy's positions,

on the 17th of May, the regiment was attached 1794
to the column under the Duke of York's immediate command, which captured *Lannoy*, *Roubaix*, and *Mouveaux;* the SIXTEENTH halted at Roubaix, from whence they sent out strong patroles during the night. In the mean time, the failure of other divisions of the allied army in the performance of their share of the combined movement, had left the British troops exposed to the whole weight and power of the enemy's overwhelming numbers. Fifteen thousand French troops advanced from Lisle; at the same time another column of the enemy forced its way through General Otto's position at Waterloo, and attacked the Duke of York in the rear; the few troops with His Royal Highness were soon compelled to give way before such superior numbers, when a detachment of the SIXTEENTH, under Lieutenant William Henry Pringle, escorted His Royal Highness to the column under the veteran General Otto.

Captain Charles Smith was directed to hold possession of *Roubaix* with the left squadron of the SIXTEENTH, and he dismounted a few men, who kept up a brisk fire with their carbines at the gates, until the Duke of York had retired. When Lieut.-General Abercromby approached

1794 Roubaix with his column from Mouveaux, he expected the town was in possession of the enemy, and Colonel Congreve was directed to fire some artillery into the streets to clear them; the SIXTEENTH were, however, in possession of the town; they formed in the market-place, and Colonel Hutchinson, afterwards Lord Hutchinson, arrived with a message from Lieut.-General Abercromby, requesting them to cover the retrograde movement of his column. The SIXTEENTH, and Lord Charles Fitzroy's company of grenadiers of the Foot Guards, formed the rear of the column of march in the retreat from Roubaix towards Lannoy. Crowds of enemies came pouring down upon the British, who were attacked in front, on both flanks, and in the rear, at the same moment. On approaching Lannoy, it was found occupied by the enemy, and the British quitted the high-way and fought their passage through the fields to Templeuve. The SIXTEENTH were conspicuous for the excellent order they preserved, and for their spirited conduct in repulsing the attacks of the enemy, for which they were highly commended by Lieut.-General Abercromby. Their loss was one man and two horses killed; seven men and eight horses wounded.

On the 22nd of May the British were at- 1794
tacked in their lines before *Tournay;* the SIXTEENTH were on piquet, with part of O'Donnell's free corps, and maintained their post in the neighbourhood of Coisoign, during the general attack of the enemy under General Pichegru, on the Duke of York's army. Towards the close of the engagement the SIXTEENTH made a demonstration along the east bank of the Scheldt, and were spectators of the repulse of the enemy's last effort, by the Fourteenth, Thirty-seventh, and Fifty-third Foot.

At length the defeat and retrograde movements of the Austrians rendered it necessary for the Duke of York to withdraw from before Tournay, and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons took part in covering the retreat, and in several of the skirmishes which followed, and they preserved their reputation for valour and discipline.

On the 16th of July the regiment was engaged in driving back a body of French troops, from *Duffel,* near Malines; and on the 5th of August, a piquet of the Seventh and SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons surprised a French piquet, and took several men and horses prisoners.

The army afterwards quitted Flanders and

1794 encamped on the plains of Breda; on the 12th of September the piquet of the SIXTEENTH was driven back, by superior numbers, from the Dommel, and on the 14th the enemy forced the troops of Hesse D'Armstadt from *Boxtel;* Lieut.-General Abercromby was detached with the SIXTEENTH and several other corps, to regain this post; but he found the enemy in such force that he retired to the main body behind the Aa: the SIXTEENTH taking part in covering the retrograde movement, which was executed with great ability.

1795 From Breda the army retired behind the Maese, and afterwards took post beyond the Waal; but in January, 1795, the rivers were so frozen as to permit the enemy to cross upon the ice; and it was found necessary to retire through Holland to Germany. During this retrograde movement, which occupied several weeks, the troops had to march over ice, through deep snow, and were exposed to tempests; they also suffered much from the want of provisions, but they bore these hardships with a patience which redounded to their honour. The SIXTEENTH remained in Germany until the winter, when they embarked from Bremen, and, after some delay from tem-

pestuous weather, landed in England, in February, 1796 1796.

In the summer of this year the regiment was encamped, under the orders of Lieut.-Colonel James Affleck, near Weymouth, where a large body of troops, chiefly cavalry, was assembled to practise the system of evolutions suggested by Lieut.-General David Dundas.

In 1797 the regiment was reviewed by King 1797 George III., on Ashford Common, and afterwards took the royal escort duty. It was again reviewed by His Majesty, on Hounslow Heath, in August, 1798, and afterwards joined the camp at Swinley, 1798 near Windsor; at which place it was again encamped in the summer of 1799, and took part in 1799 His Majesty's grand reviews.

The head-quarters were established, in 1800, 1800 at Canterbury, and afterwards at Croydon; and in the autumn of 1801, the regiment was encamped 1801 near Brighton, where it was reviewed by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Duke of York.

In the autumn of 1802, the regiment em- 1802 barked at Liverpool, under the orders of Lieut.-Colonel Stapleton Cotton (now Viscount Combermere), for Ireland, and the head-quarters were

1803 established at Longford; in the following year they were removed to Dublin, and the regiment was employed in suppressing the commotions which broke out in that city, and had several men and horses killed and wounded.

1804 From Dublin, the head-quarters were removed,
1805 in 1804, to Gort; in 1805, the regiment embarked from Dublin, for Liverpool, from whence it marched to Guildford; Lieut.-Colonel George Anson commanding.

1806 His Royal Highness the Duke of York reviewed the regiment on Ashford Common in the spring of 1806; in September of the same year it was stationed at Hounslow and Hampton Court, and performed the escort duty to His Majesty, who reviewed the regiment on Hounslow Heath, and expressed his high approbation of its appearance.

1807 In 1807 the regiment marched into cantonments in Kent; the head-quarters being at Hythe;
1808 and in 1808 it was reviewed on Wimbledon Common by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief.

Meanwhile a number of extraordinary events arising out of the confusion occasioned by the French revolution, had elevated a daring and

talented general, Napoleon Buonaparte, to the 1808
throne of France, and had added Italy and Genoa to his dominions; the unsatiated ambition of this chieftain thirsted for universal empire, and he was endeavouring to reduce the Peninsula to submission to his yoke. British troops were sent to aid the Spaniards and Portuguese, and on the 31st of March, 1809, the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, 1809
commanded by Colonel George Anson, embarked from Falmouth* for Portugal, landed at Lisbon on the 13th of April, and were formed in brigade with the Fourteenth Light Dragoons, under Major-General Stapleton Cotton. After ten days' march the regiment joined the army assembling at Coimbra under Lieut.-General Sir Arthur

* The following officers proceeded abroad with the regiment in 1809.

Colonel, George Anson; *Major*, the Honourable Lincoln Stanhope; *Captains*, Raymond Pelly, James Hay, George Home Murray, Robert Ashworth, John Henry Belli, Honorable Henry B. Lygon, Honorable Edward C. Cocks, Clement Sweetenham; *Lieutenants*, Robert Lloyd, William Glasscott, Ralph B. Johnson, George Thompson, William Persse, Richard Weyland, Hugh Owen, William Hay, John P. Buchanan, William J. Alexander, Henry Van Hagen, William Tomkinson, Thomas Penrice, Henry B. Bence, William Osten, Charles Sawyer; *Cornets*, William Lockhart, Charles T. Bishop, George Keating; *Paymaster*, John Burnet; *Surgeon*, Isaac Robinson; *Assistant Surgeons*, James O'Meally, R. T. Healde; *Adjutant*, John Barra; and *Veterinary Surgeon*, John Peers.

1809 Wellesley, to drive the French under Marshal Soult from Oporto.

Advancing upon this enterprise, the regiment crossed the Vouga before daylight on the 10th of May, and approaching *Albergaria Nova*, arrived in the presence of four regiments of French cavalry, a battalion of infantry, and some artillery, under General Franceschi. The enemy was driven from his post; "the superiority of the British cavalry "was evident throughout the day*;" and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were commended for their spirited conduct on this occasion. Several men and horses were wounded; and Major the Honorable Lincoln Stanhope received a sabre wound while leading a charge of the regiment on this occasion.

After the enemy was driven from his post, the regiment moved forward in pursuit, and halted that night at Oliveira; on the following morning it was again in motion, and about eight o'clock came up with the French, who were strongly posted on the heights above *Grijon;* they were again forced to make a precipitate retreat, and two squadrons of the SIXTEENTH and Twen-

* London Gazette.

tieth Dragoons, darting forward in pursuit, killed 1809
many and took some prisoners. The spirited conduct of the regiment, on this occasion, was commended by Sir Arthur Wellesley, in his public despatch. It lost several men and horses, and, among the wounded, were Captain Sweetenham and Lieutenant Tomkinson.

The French continued their retreat and arrived at *Oporto* during the night, but were driven from that place, with severe loss, on the following day. The SIXTEENTH pursued the enemy, one squadron proceeding by way of Guimaraens, and the other three by Braga; on the 16th of May, the advance-guard of the regiment, with the leading companies of the brigade of Foot Guards, came up with the rear of the enemy, which was formed on a strong position near *Salamonde.* This post was attacked, and the French fled in dismay, and with loss, particularly at the bridge of Ponte Nova, over which they endeavoured to escape.

From Salamonde the pursuit was continued, and the advance-guard of the army, of which the SIXTEENTH formed part, arrived at Montalegre on the 19th of May, much fatigued from long marches through an exhausted country, and from incessant rain. The enemy having been chased beyond the

1809 confines of Portugal, and forced to abandon his artillery and baggage, the pursuit terminated; the SIXTEENTH retraced their steps to Oporto, halted at that city one day, and afterwards proceeded to Coimbra.

On the plains of Coimbra the British cavalry were reviewed by Sir Arthur Wellesley on the 15th of June; they afterwards proceeded towards Abrantes; and Colonel Anson having been placed at the head of a brigade, with the rank of brigadier-general, the command of the regiment devolved on Major the Honorable Lincoln Stanhope.

Advancing from the vicinity of Abrantes, the SIXTEENTH passed the frontiers of Portugal, to co-operate with the Spaniards under General Cuesta; but the British commander being, from the neglect and apathy of the Spanish authorities, unable to procure provisions for his troops, halted at *Talavera de la Reyna.* The French advanced in force under Joseph Buonaparte, and on the 27th and 28th of July, the valley of the Tagus at Talavera, resounded with the roar of cannon and musketry, and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were at their post in the line of battle, supporting the infantry, and manœuvring to hold

the French cavalry in check. On this occasion 1809
the sterling qualities of the British troops were proved; the furious onsets of their opponents were repulsed with dreadful slaughter, and the allied army stood victorious on the field of battle.

The loss of the SIXTEENTH was limited to six rank and file killed; Lieutenant Bence and five rank and file wounded; two men missing. Its commanding officer, Major the Honorable Lincoln Stanhope, obtained a gold medal, and the gallant bearing of the regiment was afterwards rewarded with the royal authority to bear the word "TALAVERA" on its guidons and appointments.

This display of British skill and prowess was followed by the advance of French armies having so great a superiority of numbers, that the English general was obliged to withdraw behind the Tagus; and Assistant Surgeon O'Meally, being employed with the medical staff in charge of the wounded, was made prisoner and sent to France. The SIXTEENTH were afterwards employed on the Guadiana; they subsequently occupied quarters in Estremadura and the Alentejo. Extraordinary fatigue, want of food, and the climate of the banks of the Guadiana, proved fatal to the

1809 British troops, and many officers and soldiers died of a malignant fever. Assistant Surgeon Healde, of the SIXTEENTH, died at Estremos; and of the thirty-six officers of the regiment present, nineteen were attacked with the prevailing disease.

During the winter the Spanish armies were defeated, captured, or dispersed; the British remained in Portugal; their commander was created Viscount Wellington; and in December, the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons marched from the Alentejo to Portuguese Estremadura, occupying quarters at Abrantes on the banks of the Tagus.

1810 Additional French troops, flushed with their recent victories in Germany, crowded into Spain, and in the campaign of 1810, the British had to contend with such an immense superiority of numbers, that their operations were limited to the defence of Portugal. The SIXTEENTH advanced, in February, to the frontiers; but afterwards withdrew to Carbadao; in April they again moved forward to the Sierra d'Estrella, a lofty range of mountains in the province of Beira, and were reviewed, on the 19th of June, by Lord Wellington.

Advancing with overwhelming numbers, the enemy besieged Ciudad Rodrigo, and the English

general, hoping the enemy would, by detaching 1810
troops, give him an opportunity of relieving the place, reinforced Brigadier-General Craufurd, who commanded the out-posts behind the Agueda, with the Fourteenth and SIXTEENTH Dragoons; the enemy pushed some troops forward, and the British cavalry in advance were posted at Gallegos, with the infantry in the wood of Alameda. On the 4th of July the enemy passed the river, and drove back the out-posts; the British retired skirmishing upon *Alameda*, a troop of the SIXTEENTH, a troop of the First German Hussars, and two guns covering the movement, and, after some sharp fighting in which the French were repulsed, the British light infantry and the guns took post in a wood near Fort Conception, and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, and other cavalry, were stationed higher up, on the Duas Casas. The French withdrew behind the Azava, leaving only a piquet at Gallegos; their marauding parties, however, entered the villages of Barquillo and *Villa de Puerco* on three successive nights, and Brigadier-General Craufurd, thinking to cut them off, formed two ambuscades, in one of which were the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons.

At day-break on the morning of the 11th of

1810 July, a body of French infantry was discovered near Villa de Puerco, and a party of cavalry at Barquillo. The British advanced along a difficult defile between stone inclosures, and the French infantry, having time to form square on a steep rise of land, were enabled to repulse their opponents and to effect their retreat. The French dragoons were charged, broken, and two officers and twenty-nine men made prisoners.

During the night of the 23rd of July, the videts and piquets of the SIXTEENTH were exposed to a heavy storm of wind and rain; as day-light approached, they discovered the advance of the enemy in force, and the regiment took part in covering the retrograde movements of the light division across the river Coa.

The French besieged *Almeida*, which surrendered towards the end of August; on the 28th of that month the enemy attacked the out-posts, the SIXTEENTH were sharply engaged, and Captain the Honorable Henry B. Lygon was severely wounded while in command of the skirmishers.

Having gained possession of one of the principal fortresses of Portugal, the French Marshal, Massena, urged forward his numerous legions; the British fell back fighting; the SIXTEENTH,

taking a most active part in covering the retreat, 1810
were frequently engaged with the enemy. On the 3rd of September their out-posts were attacked; on the 24th the French skirmished with the piquets in front of *Mortagao*, when a squadron of the SIXTEENTH distinguished itself, leaving a number of opponents dead on the field, and bringing off several prisoners.

On the 25th of September the cavalry skirmishers exchanged a few shots, and the regiment was employed in covering the retreat of the light division to the position on the rugged rocks of *Busaco;* it had several men and horses killed and wounded; Captain George Home Murray was also slightly wounded, and Cornet George Keating severely wounded.

At the battle of *Busaco,* on the 27th of September, the regiment was commanded by Major Clement Archer, but the ground was too mountainous and rugged for the use of cavalry, and the regiment had no opportunity of distinguishing itself. The enemy having turned the position by a flank movement, the army retired towards the fortified lines; when the SIXTEENTH were again at the post of honour confronting the enemy and covering the retrograde movement.

1810 On the 1st of October the out-posts were driven from the hills bounding the plain of *Coimbra* to the north, and the British fell back, fighting, across the Mondego. Leaving Coimbra on the 4th of October, Marshal Massena advanced and drove the English piquets from *Pombal.* On the following morning he pushed so suddenly upon *Leyria* as to create some confusion; some brilliant fighting took place, and the SIXTEENTH particularly distinguished themselves in action with the Third French hussars and the Fifteenth French dragoons. The regiment lost several men and horses, and Captain Murray was slightly and Captain Sweetenham severely wounded.

At this period skirmishing took place every day, and on the 8th of October, a squadron of the SIXTEENTH charged the head of a French column in the streets of *Alcoentre,* slew seven or eight of the enemy, and took twelve men and horses, of the Second and Fourteenth French dragoons, prisoners.

The French, confident in their superior numbers, pressed boldly forward, and the temerity of their cavalry was again punished on the 9th of October, near *Quinta de Torre,* when a squadron of the SIXTEENTH distinguished itself.

On the 10th of October the skirmish was 1810
resumed, and the British took post in the lines of *Torres Vedras*, where they opposed a resistance which arrested the progress of the numerous legions of Buonaparte. The SIXTEENTH were posted at Mafra; and on the 22nd of October the brigade to which they belonged took the out-post duty at Ramalhal, which was occupied as a post of reserve and support to Obidos, where a garrison was placed to restrain the French on that side.

Marshal Massena, who had vaunted he would drive the English into the sea, and plant the eagles of France upon the towers of Lisbon, became convinced of the hopelessness of the task he had undertaken, and, in the middle of November, he retired to a position at Santarem. The SIXTEENTH moving forward in pursuit, formed part of the advance-guard of the allied army, and many prisoners were captured. *Serjeant Baxter* and six men of the regiment, being in advance, came suddenly upon a piquet of fifty French infantry, who were cooking, but they instantly ran to their arms. The serjeant led his little band to the charge with heroic gallantry, and broke in among the enemy with such resolution,

1810 that, with the assistance of some countrymen, he made prisoners a French officer and forty-one soldiers, with the loss of one man of the SIXTEENTH killed. Serjeant Baxter had distinguished himself on former occasions, and in this advance, Serjeants Blood, Biggs, and Liddle, were conspicuous for bravery in presence of the enemy.

A board of officers assembled to decide upon the disposal of two thousand one hundred and eleven dollars, the produce of horses captured from the enemy, and awarded nine hundred and eighty-five dollars to the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons.

1811 During the early part of the year 1811, the two opposing armies confronted each other; and Captain the Honorable Edward Charles Cocks was detached with a squadron of the SIXTEENTH to *Caldos*, to watch the enemy's movements, and to harass and attack his foraging parties. While thus employed, Captain Cocks and the men of the regiment under his orders, distinguished themselves on several occasions, and took many prisoners; and, on the 25th of January, Serjeant Blood and six men charged the rear of a French squadron, in the act of crossing a bridge, and cut off fifteen men and horses, thus affording another instance of the superiority of the British cavalry.

On the 24th of January a reconnoissance was made by the enemy, when the SIXTEENTH were engaged. 1811

The enemy had a custom of sending a strong patrole almost every night to Arrada; on the 19th of February, thirty men of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons and First German Hussars, under Cornet Strenuwitz, formed an ambuscade near *Ferragoas*, but waited two days without seeing the French detachment. A small patrole was sent up to the enemy's piquet at Alcanhede, and on retiring it was pursued by an officer and twenty French foot, and an officer and twenty dragoons. The enemy, coming within reach of the ambuscade, were charged with distinguished gallantry; the officer, and the whole of the infantry, were taken or cut down; the officer proved to be one of General Clausel's aides-de-camp; three of the dragoons were made prisoners, several sabred, and the remainder escaped by dispersing.

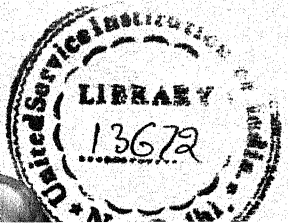
On the 5th of March the French army retreated from Santarem, and the SIXTEENTH moved forward in pursuit. Lieutenant Richard Weyland commanded a detachment of the regiment in observation near *Leyria*, where, on the morning of the 9th of March, he made a party of thirty

1811 French dragoons prisoners. He followed the enemy from Leyria, and arrived at the table-land in front of Pombal, in time to join the German hussars in an attack upon the French cavalry, who were broken, and some prisoners were taken.

The enemy was driven from *Pombal* on the 12th of March; and, on the evening of the same day, his rear-guard was dislodged from a position at *Redinha*. The regiment skirmished with the enemy, and supported the infantry, in the action of the 14th of March; also in the action at *Foz d'Aronce*, on the 15th of March, when the enemy was driven into the river Ceira, and many men were drowned.

On the 26th of March, a patrole of the SIXTEENTH under Lieutenant William Persse, and a patrole of the Royal Dragoons under Lieutenant Foster, attacked a detachment of French cavalry between *Alverca* and Guardia, with signal gallantry; killed and wounded several, and took the officer and thirty-seven men prisoners. In his public despatch, Lord Wellington designated this a "gallant action;" and the conduct of Lieutenant Persse of the SIXTEENTH was applauded.

The cavalry and light troops continued to hover round and assail the enemy's rear; the


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SIXTEENTH were become conspicuous for their 1811
daring and success; and on the 29th of March they formed part of the force which drove the enemy from *Guardo*, back upon Sabugal, on which occasion Serjeants Baxter and Greaves, being at the head of a few men, greatly distinguished themselves, charging the enemy on two separate occasions, and taking many prisoners.

Some sharp fighting took place at *Sabugal* on the 3rd of April; the French divisions were driven from thence, and the brigade of which the SIXTEENTH formed part, took a quantity of baggage; Lieutenant William Lockhart of the regiment distinguished himself on this occasion.

Advancing towards *Fort Conception*, on the 7th of April, to the support of a corps of Portuguese militia under Colonel Trant, the SIXTEENTH, the Royal Dragoons, and a troop of artillery, came suddenly upon a large body of French infantry, which was attacked, when about three hundred of the enemy were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. A squadron of the SIXTEENTH, led by Captain Murray, charged the French rear-guard, which had formed square, cut many men down, and took one officer and fifty-six soldiers prisoners.

1811 Having chased the French army over the frontiers of Portugal, the British blockaded Almeida; and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons went into quarters of refreshment, the horses being exhausted by continual marches and skirmishing. Marshal Massena reinforced and re-organized his discomfited army, and advanced to relieve Almeida, when the regiment left its cantonments and once more confronted the enemy in the vicinity of *Fuentes d'Onor*, where some sharp fighting took place on the 3rd and 5th of May, in which the SIXTEENTH took part, and the enemy was repulsed and forced to retire back into Spain. The regiment had one horse killed on the 3rd, and on the 5th, Lieutenant Blake, seven rank and file, and four horses killed; Lieutenant Weyland, sixteen rank and file, and five horses wounded; Captain Belli and one serjeant taken prisoners. The commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Clement Archer, received a gold medal, and the gallant conduct of the officers and soldiers was subsequently rewarded with the honour of bearing the word "FUENTES D'ONOR" on the guidons and appointments.

After this repulse of the enemy, the SIXTEENTH were allowed a short period of repose in

cantonments among the Portuguese peasantry; 1811
they were formed in brigade with the Fourteenth Light Dragoons under Major-General Anson, and were reviewed by Lord Wellington on the 19th of July.

In the autumn the allied army blockaded Ciudad Rodrigo, and the French troops advanced to relieve that fortress. The SIXTEENTH were posted at *Espejo*, on the Lower Azava, with advanced posts at Carpio and Marialva. Soon after day-break, on the 25th of September, fourteen squadrons of the Imperial Guards drove the out-posts from Carpio, across the Azava, and the lancers of Berg, crossing that river in pursuit, were charged by two squadrons of the SIXTEENTH and a squadron of the Fourteenth Light Dragoons, and driven back. The enemy attempted to rally and to return, but they were checked by the light infantry posted in a wood, and were driven across the river by the cavalry. The regiment afterwards fell back, and the army was eventually concentrated behind Soito. The conduct of the SIXTEENTH, on this occasion, excited admiration; and the behaviour of Captain James Hay, and of Captain (Brevet-Major) the Honorable Edward Charles Cocks, was commended in the public despatches.

1812 A favourable opportunity occurring, the British troops moved forward in the depth of winter and besieged *Ciudad Rodrigo*, the SIXTEENTH forming part of the covering army, and this important fortress was wrested from the enemy in January, 1812.

From the Agueda the regiment proceeded by easy stages to the Alentejo, and crossing the Guadiana river, penetrated into Spanish Estremadura, to join the covering army during the siege of *Badajoz*. Marshal Soult assembled a numerous body of troops and advanced to raise the siege, when the covering army fell back, and while the French army was advancing in haste to fight for Badajoz, this fortress was, by a mighty effort, captured by storm during the night of the 6th of April. The French marshal, confounded by this sudden stroke, faced about and retired towards the frontiers of Andalusia.

The SIXTEENTH regiment of Light Dragoons was one of the corps which followed the retiring enemy, and during the night of the 10th of April, it marched from Villa Franca upon Usagre, to take part in cutting off a body of French cavalry encamped between Villa Garcia and Usagre. The enemy, however, fell back upon

Llerena, and formed for battle behind the junction 1812
of the Benvenida road. The opposing horsemen mustered about nineteen hundred sabres on each side; but the British soon decided the action, by charging the enemy in front and flank with such resolution, that he was instantly broken and chased from the ground with the loss of many officers and soldiers. After charging the French squadrons in front, the SIXTEENTH pursued the enemy a considerable distance and took many prisoners. Captain the Honorable Edward Charles Cocks* signalizing himself in a particular manner. The regiment was commanded, on this occasion, by

* Captain the Honorable Edward Charles Cocks, (eldest son of the Earl Somers,) whose deeds of gallantry are recorded in this history, was promoted from the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, by purchase, to a majority in the Seventy-ninth Regiment, in February, 1812, and was killed at Burgos on the 8th of October, 1812.

"The enemy made two sorties on the head of the sap, between "the exterior and interior lines of the castle of Burgos, in both "of which they materially injured our works, and we suffered "some loss. In the last, at three on the morning of the 8th, we "had the misfortune to lose the Honorable Major Cocks, of the "Seventy-ninth, who was field-officer of the trenches, and was "killed in the act of rallying the troops who had been driven in. "I have frequently had occasion to draw your Lordship's atten-"tion to the conduct of Major Cocks, and in one instance, very "recently, in the attack of the hornwork of the castle of Burgos, "and I consider his loss as one of the greatest inportance to this "army and to his Majesty's service."—*Lord Wellington's despatch, dated 11th October*, 1812.

1812 Captain George Home Murray, whose conduct was commended in the public despatch of Lieut.-General Sir Stapleton Cotton, who stated,—"I "cannot say too much in praise of the gallantry and "regularity of the four regiments (Fifth Dragoon "guards, Twelfth, Fourteenth and SIXTEENTH "Light Dragoons,) which attacked and pursued "the enemy; nor could anything have exceeded "the steadiness and good discipline displayed by "the Third and Fourth Dragoons who supported "them." The loss of the regiment, in consequence of the sudden and spirited manner in which the attack was made, was only one horse killed; one man and two horses wounded.

Leaving Estremadura, the regiment marched to Beira, and the French troops which had penetrated that province under Marshal Marmont, withdrew into Spain.

The regiment was reviewed by Lord Wellington on the 12th of June, and on the following day it advanced upon Salamanca; from whence the French withdrew, and the allied army took up a position in the mountains of St. Christoval during the siege of the forts. Marshal Marmont put his army in motion, but being unable to save the forts, he fell back beyond the Douro, and

the British army advanced to the opposite bank 1812
of the river.

Having obtained reinforcements, the French commander suddenly crossed the Douro in the middle of July, when the allied army retired; but Lord Wellington ordered the light division, and Major-General Anson's brigade of cavalry, to halt on the Trabancas at *Castrejon*. On the morning of the 18th of July the enemy appeared in force, and some sharp fighting took place, in which the SIXTEENTH were hotly engaged, and had three men and five horses killed; Lieutenant Baker, eight rank and file, and two horses wounded; three men and four horses missing.

Lord Wellington, having arrived at Castrejon, ordered the troops to retire behind the Guarena river; a series of movements followed in which the commanders of both armies showed great abilities; the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons took part in covering the operations, and, finally, the British were once more formed in position in the mountains near *Salamanca*. On the 22nd of July, the French marshal manœuvred to gain the Ciudad Rodrigo road, and Lord Wellington, watching the opposing army from one of the rocks called Arapiles, saw his adversary's left

1812 wing separated from his centre, and instantly seizing the opportunity which this faulty movement offered, he ordered the British divisions forward, and the battle commenced. The SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons, with the other regiments of Major-General Anson's brigade, formed on the right of the sixth and seventh divisions, and afterwards advanced on the left of the third division when it made its brilliant and successful attack on the enemy's left wing. Galloping forward, the regiment flanked Major-General Le Marchant's brigade of heavy cavalry in its spirited charge upon the French infantry. The rapid advance of the cavalry upon a light soil, with a strong breeze at their back, soon enveloped them in a cloud of dust; their charge was, however, successful, and two thousand prisoners were taken. The SIXTEENTH continued to advance, and, after passing through a wood, arrived at some ploughed fields, where the dust was so great they could see nothing, and the brigade halted. When the dust cleared, the regiment retired a short distance to be out of the range of the fire of a large body of infantry and artillery in its front. The battle continued to rage; for a short period the victorious career of the British was checked; but,

after a desperate effort, the changing current of 1812
the fight once more flowed in favour of the allied army, and the French were driven from the field with severe loss. Captain George Home Murray commanded the regiment on this occasion, and was rewarded with a gold medal; and the royal authority was afterwards given for the SIXTEENTH to bear the word "SALAMANCA" on their guidons and appointments, in commemoration of their conduct on this occasion.

Moving forward in pursuit of the enemy, on the following day, the SIXTEENTH, and four other regiments, overtook the French rear-guard, at a small stream, at the foot of a height, near the village of *La Serna;* the five regiments charged; the French cavalry fled before the British horsemen, and the First and Second German Dragoons broke a square of infantry and made many prisoners; the SIXTEENTH charged, on this occasion, with great gallantry.

Continuing to form part of the advance-guard in the pursuit of the broken remains of the French army, the regiment arrived, on the 31st of July, at the ancient city of Valladolid, where a quantity of cannon and military stores was captured.

1812 At Valladolid the pursuit was discontinued, and the Marquis of Wellington undertook a march of one hundred miles to Madrid, with the main body of the army, leaving the SIXTEENTH and several other corps, on the Douro. The brigade occupied extensive cantonments; but in the middle of August, a French force under General Clausel advanced down the Pisuerga stream, and the brigade was concentrated at *Tudela*, a small town on the Douro five miles from Valladolid, where above twenty thousand French troops had arrived on the 18th of August. On that day the brigade was attacked by very superior numbers, and after some fighting, it fell back behind the Douro, and occupied quarters along the bank of that river from Tudela to a station opposite to Valladolid.

About this period *Serjeant-Major Blood*, whose conduct on former occasions reflected credit on the regiment, returned from an incursion, in which he had penetrated to the neighbourhood of Astorga, in the rear of the French army, and the Marquis of Wellington rewarded the zeal and address which the serjeant-major had evinced on this service, with a donation of a hundred dollars, and offered to recommend him for a commission.

The army returning from Madrid, the SIXTEENTH crossed the Douro and advanced upon Valladolid on the 6th of September; the French retreating with the loss of a piquet, which was captured by the Eleventh Dragoons. 1812

As the enemy retreated up the beautiful Pisuerga and Arlanzan valleys, which were carefully cultivated and filled to repletion with corn, wine, and oil, the SIXTEENTH were at the head of the allied army, which followed the French; day after day the opposing legions manœuvred, the French offering battle in strong positions, and the allies turning them by flank movements; repeated rencounters took place between the out-posts, and at *Torquemado*, the piquets were attacked on the 13th of September, when a squadron of the SIXTEENTH, under Captain Buchanan, distinguished itself, making many prisoners. At length the army arrived at *Burgos;* the SIXTEENTH passed the Arlanzan river below the town, on the 19th of September, and the siege of the castle was commenced.

The regiment, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Hay, covered the siege of Burgos Castle, furnishing out-posts at *Monasterio*, sixteen miles in advance of Burgos. A numerous French army,

1812 under General Souham, advanced to force the allies to raise the siege, and on the 13th of October the out-posts were attacked. Captain Persse of the SIXTEENTH was twice forced from the bridge beyond Monasterio, and twice recovered it in the most gallant manner, and Colonel F. Ponsonby brought forward the reserves. Captain Persse and several men of the regiment were wounded. This demonstration was followed by others; the out-posts fell back on the 19th of October, and during the night of the 21st, the British raised the siege and retired; the SIXTEENTH taking part in covering the movement.

On the 23rd of October the infantry crossed the Pisuerga river. The French attacked the rear-guard under Lieut.-General Sir Stapleton Cotton, and drove the piquets from the bridge of Baniel; the British horsemen rallied upon their reserves, and gained the Hormaza stream, where they disputed the ground for some time, and Captain Persse led a squadron of the SIXTEENTH to the charge, against very superior numbers, with a degree of valour and resolution seldom witnessed, which excited great admiration. Eventually, the British withdrew behind *Cellada del Camino*, and took post on a large plain. Major-

General Anson's brigade formed the rear-guard, 1812
and after some severe fighting between the Eleventh Light Dragoons and the French cavalry, the brigade fell back, covered by the SIXTEENTH. As the regiment was retiring, a multitude of Spanish irregulars came rushing from the hills, upon its flank, pursued by a crowd of French Hussars, at the same moment it was charged in front by a large body of Dragoons. Thus attacked, the regiment sustained a serious loss; its commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Pelly, who joined on the preceding day, had his horse killed under him, was wounded, and taken prisoner. The regiment retired by the bridge of Venta de Pozo; the enemy's squadrons, pressing forward in pursuit, came within the range of some British infantry and artillery, when a tempest of bullets emptied the French saddles by scores, and the survivors drew off to the hills.

Two serjeants, six rank and file, and thirty-eight horses, of the SIXTEENTH, were killed on this occasion; Lieutenant Lockhart died of his wounds; Captain Murray, four serjeants, thirty-five rank and file, and twenty-four horses wounded; Lieut.-Colonel Pelly, Lieutenant Baker, one serjeant, ten rank and file, and five horses

1812 missing: Lieutenant Beauchamp had two horses killed under him. Serjeant-Majors Blood, Baxter, and Grindrod, distinguished themselves in this day's fighting.

Continuing to take part in covering the retreat to Salamanca, the regiment underwent much fatigue and privation, and in the retreat from thence to the Agueda, incessant rains, with a deficiency of provision for the soldiers, and of forage for the horses, rendered the sufferings of the army severe beyond what had been experienced in the preceding campaigns.

1813 During the winter the regiment occupied quarters at Aveiro, thirty-three miles from Oporto; and it received one thousand and seventeen dollars,—its share of the produce of horses captured from the enemy.

Moving forward from its winter quarters, the regiment crossed the Douro, in May, 1813, and penetrating the Tras-os-Montes, traversed those mountainous regions to the banks of the Esla, which river was passed towards the end of May; the French abandoning the line of the Douro and falling back.

A series of retrograde movements brought the French army to the vicinity of Burgos; the

British pressing forward, the French blew up 1813
Burgos castle and withdrew behind the Ebro. Moving towards the sources of this celebrated stream, the British commander poured his columns through deep narrow valleys and rugged defiles, traversed wild regions heretofore deemed impracticable for an army, and turning the French position on the Ebro, forced them back into the valley of *Vittoria*, where a general engagement was fought on the 21st of June.

The SIXTEENTH were attached to the troops under Lieut.-General Sir Thomas Graham, who attacked the enemy's right wing and drove them from their position above Abechuco. The allied army succeeded at every part of the field; the French were overthrown, their artillery and baggage captured, and their numerous legions forced to make a precipitate flight to the Pyrenean mountains. The SIXTEENTH supported the infantry during the action, and took part in forcing the enemy from the field. Their loss was seven men and eleven horses killed; Lieutenant Arnold, Adjutant Barra, two serjeants, ten rank and file, and eleven horses wounded: Lieutenant Thelluson of the Eleventh Light Dragoons, attached to the SIXTEENTH, was killed. Lieut.-Colonel

1813 Hay, commanding the regiment, was rewarded with a gold medal, and the royal authority was afterwards given for the word "VITTORIA" to be inscribed on its guidons and appointments, to commemorate its gallant bearing on this occasion.

From Vittoria the regiment was detached, under Lieut-General Sir Thomas Graham, by the pass of Adrian, to the district of Guipuscoa in the province of Biscay, and arrived, on the evening of the 24th of June, at the vicinity of *Villa Franca*, at the moment when the rear-guard of General Foy's division, which was escorting a valuable convoy towards France, was entering the town. The enemy took up a strong position; some fighting occurred; and the British having recourse to flank operations, the French retreated to Tolosa, where they again offered battle, and were driven from thence with the loss of four hundred men; but the convoy entered France in safety.

In the beginning of July, Sir Thomas Graham invested *St. Sebastian*, and the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were attached to the troops employed in the siege of this fortress. When Marshal Soult advanced to relieve Pampeluna, which was

blockaded by the allied army, the regiment com- 1813
municated with the centre divisions through the mountain passes. The enemy having been repulsed, the siege was resumed, and the regiment covered this operation until the surrender of the castle of St. Sebastian, in the early part of September.

After the capture of St. Sebastian, the regiment advanced to the confines of Spain, and it was at the passage of the *Bidassoa* on the 7th of October, but did not sustain any loss.

To arrest the torrent of invasion which menaced France, Marshal Soult took up a position on the *Nivelle* river, which he fortified with labour and art; but on the morning of the 10th of November, as the sun arose in splendour, and the rays of light gleamed upon the Pyrenean mountains, ninety thousand combatants, accompanied by ninety-five pieces of artillery, rushed to battle, and breaking through the barrier constructed by the French commander, carried their conquering arms into the plains of France. The SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons supported the infantry; as they approached St. Jean de Luz, the bridge was on fire, when Serjeant Maloney led the advance-guard through the flames at a gallop

1813 dispersed the incendiaries, and partly saved the bridge from destruction.

Continuing its career of victory, the allied army passed the river *Nive*, and gained advantages in action on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of December, in which the SIXTEENTH took part, and distinguished themselves. Lieut.-Colonel Hay was rewarded with a medal, and the word "NIVE" was afterwards added to the inscriptions authorized to be borne on the guidons and appointments. The regiment had four horses killed; Captain Persse, Lieutenant Nepean, one trumpeter, seven rank and file, and six horses wounded.

1814 In the second week of February, 1814, the enemy's left wing was menaced to draw the enemy's attention to that quarter, while the passage of the river *Adour* was effected below Bayonne, the SIXTEENTH being attached to the troops selected to effect the passage of the river. On the night of the 22nd of February, a body of troops moved towards the Adour, and at daylight on the following morning they approached the bank, when the British artillery compelled the French flotilla, and a sloop of war, to retire up the river. A few men passed the stream

in a boat, and forced the French piquet to retire; 1814
a raft was formed, a hawser stretched across, and by the evening of the following day, the first division of infantry and some cavalry were on the right bank: on the 26th of February, a floating bridge was constructed, and on the 27th the town was blockaded. The SIXTEENTH forming part of the force which was stationed before *Bayonne*, they were prevented sharing in the other operations of the army. In April hostilities terminated with the abdication of Buonaparte, and the restoration of the Bourbon family to the throne of France.

Thus ended a war in which British skill and British valour, being exerted for the promotion of the well-being of mankind, had delivered the inhabitants of Spain and Portugal from the power of a chief who sought to rule them with Asiatic despotism; a war in which the SIXTEENTH, the QUEEN'S regiment of Light Dragoons, had evinced intrepidity and firmness in action, and regularity in quarters: these qualities were rewarded with the royal authority to display the word "PENINSULA" on its guidons and appointments*.

* The following non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the regiment particularly distinguished themselves during this war:—*Serjeant-Majors* Blood, Baxter, Drawbridge, Greaves, Maloney, Kearney, Blythe, Ashworth; *Serjeants* Lincoln, Collins, Jolly, Lakin; *Corporals* Cox, Yates; *Privates* Arthur, Hurst, Fitzpatrick, Weedon, Mitchell, Daley, Castans, Bulpot, Pemberton.

1814 After reposing a short period in cantonments, the regiment commenced its march from Bayonne to Calais, which it accomplished in five weeks, and embarked for England in July; having sustained a loss of three hundred and nine men, and fourteen hundred and sixteen horses, during the six campaigns it had served in Portugal, Spain, and France.

1815 After its arrival in England, the regiment was stationed at Deal and Hounslow, and in February, 1815, it was ordered to London, to aid in suppressing the riots, which took place on the introduction into parliament of a bill, to regulate the importation of grain. The public excitement having subsided, the regiment marched into Kent, the head-quarters being at Canterbury.

In the mean time Napoleon Buonaparte had invaded, with a few followers, the kingdom from which he had been exiled; the armies of France instantly forsook their sovereign, and elevated the invader to the throne of that kingdom. Against Buonaparte and his adherents the nations of Europe declared war, and while the din of hostile preparation resounded in every quarter, three squadrons of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons embarked for Flanders, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel James Hay: having landed at

Ostend, they marched to the banks of the 1815
Dender, where they were formed in brigade with the Eleventh and Twelfth Light Dragoons, under the command of Major-General Sir John Vandeleur, the head-quarters being at Denderwyndick. They were reviewed, with the British cavalry, on the 29th of May, by Field-Marshal His Grace the Duke of Wellington, and Prince Blucher; and when Buonaparte suddenly passed the frontiers with his *armée d'élite*, and attacked the British and Prussian advance-posts, the regiment advanced upon *Quatre Bras*, and arriving at that post on the evening of the 16th of June, skirmished with the French cavalry, but was too late to take a decisive part in the action.

Having overthrown the Prussian army at Ligny, Buonaparte turned the main body of his numerous bands against the British, who fell back on the 17th of June, from Quatre Bras to *Waterloo;* the SIXTEENTH taking part in covering the retrograde movement by the open country, and fording the little river Dyle, took their station on the left of the position at Waterloo, where they passed the night exposed to violent storms of wind and rain.

The morning of the memorable 18th of June

1815 arrived, and the French legions were seen crowding the high grounds in front of the allied army, and descending in dense columns to commence one of the most important battles recorded in history, a battle in which the destiny of millions was decided by the sword, and British valour shone forth with unparalleled lustre. The SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons were stationed on the left of the line, and witnessed the furious onsets of Napoleon's veterans repelled by British prowess. The heavy cavalry regiments under Major-General Sir William Ponsonby, having by a gallant charge broken several columns of French infantry, were afterwards seen retiring in some disorder before a large body of lancers, when Major-General Sir John Vandeleur moved his brigade to their relief, and charging the lancers, drove them back, making many of them prisoners. The SIXTEENTH charged the lancers with the same gallantry which they had evinced in the Peninsular campaigns; and their commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Hay, being severely wounded, the command of the regiment devolved on Major Murray.

After driving back the French cavalry, the regiment resumed its post on the left, where it remained until the evening, when it was relieved

by the arrival of the Prussians to co-operate with 1815
the Anglo-Belgian army, and moving to the right of the British position, had the honour to take a distinguished part in the general attack made on the French army, which was overthrown, cut to pieces, and driven from the field with the loss of its cannon and baggage. In this charge the brigade was exposed to a battery, which was, however, speedily turned and captured; the brigade then charged, and broke, a square of infantry of the Imperial Guard, cutting down or making prisoners the whole. Re-forming after this charge, the brigade was led at speed against another mass of French infantry, which was also broken and cut to pieces. The infantry was supported by a body of cuirassiers, and as the brigade advanced to charge these steel-clad warriors, they withdrew;—some of the French officers, taken prisoners, afterwards stated that these cuirassiers were covering the person of the Emperor. In these attacks the brigade took about three thousand prisoners. Darkness had enveloped the field of battle; the panic-struck fugitives were flying before the conquering sabres of the British dragoons in every direction, when a regiment of German dragoons, coming

1815 up in the rear of the SIXTEENTH, mistook them for French, and were preparing to attack them, but the error was discovered in time to prevent serious consequences. The regiment halted on the field of battle, surrounded by the ensanguined trophies of victory; its loss was Captain J. P. Buchanan, Cornet Alexander Hay, two serjeants, six rank and file, and thirty-five horses killed; Lieut.-Colonel James Hay; Captain Richard Weyland, Lieutenants William Osten, N. D. Crichton, two serjeants, sixteen rank and file, and twenty horses wounded.

The regiment was afterwards rewarded with the honour of bearing the word "WATERLOO" on its guidons and appointments; every officer and soldier received a silver medal, and the privilege of reckoning two years' service for this day; and Lieut.-Colonel Hay and Major Murray were advanced to the dignity of Companions of the order of the Bath.

The following officers of the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons received silver medals for the battle of Waterloo.

Lieut.-Colonel James Hay.
Major G. H. Murray.

Captains.

John H. Belli (Bt. Major,) Clemt. Sweetenham, Richard Weyland, William Tomkinson, Charles King, J. Barra.

Lieutenants. 1815

William Osten, T. Wheeler, F. Swinfin, George Baker, Richard Beauchamp, N. D. Crichton, E. B. Lloyd, William Napean, J. A. Richardson, John Luard, William Harris, C. T. Monkton, A. Macdowgall.

Cornets.

William Beckwith, William Polhill, George Nugent, Alexander Hay.

Paymaster George Neyland.
Surgeon Isaac Robinson.
Assist. Surgeons J. McGr. Mullock, D. Murray.
Veterinary Surgeon John Jones.
Quarter-Master John Harrison.

One of the non-commissioned officers killed at the battle of Waterloo was Serjeant-Major Baxter, who so repeatedly distinguished himself in the Peninsula, and whose fall was much regretted.

From the field of battle, the regiment advanced upon Paris, which city surrendered to the allied armies: the French troops retiring behind the Loire. On the 3rd of July, the advance-guard of the SIXTEENTH was fired upon, a serjeant wounded, and a horse killed; but on the brigade trotting forward, a French officer advanced and apologized, attributing the occurrence to the irritated state of the French soldiers, in consequence of the abdication of Buonaparte and the surrender of Paris. The regiment was afterwards stationed at the beautiful village of

1815 Anieres; one regiment of the brigade bivouacking in the Champs Elysées in turns. After passing in review before the Emperors of Russia and Austria and the Kings of Prussia and France, on the 24th of July, the brigade marched into Normandy, the SIXTEENTH occupying cantonments at Aumal, &c.

Peace being restored, the regiment left France; it embarked at Calais in December, and landing at Dover, marched from thence to Romford, where it was reviewed by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who made known the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that the SIXTEENTH should lay aside their carbines, and be equipped as a corps of "LANCERS;" the use of the lance, which had been discontinued by the English cavalry about two hundred years, being resumed at this period.

1816 In the beginning of March, 1816, the regiment embarked at Bristol for Ireland; in April it
1817 took the Dublin duty, and was stationed in that
1818 city until June, 1818, when the head-quarters were removed to Clonmel.

1819 On the 21st of June, 1819, the SIXTEENTH LANCERS embarked at Waterford for Bristol, where the head-quarters were stationed, with

detached troops at Radipole barracks, and in South Wales. 1819

Six troops again proceeded to Ireland in 1821, leaving one squadron and the head quarters at Manchester; they returned to England in the spring of 1822, and the regiment was united at Romford, where its establishment was augmented preparatory to its embarkation for India, to which part of the globe it was ordered to transfer its services. 1821 1822

Having given up its horses to other corps, the regiment embarked in June, on board the "General Hewett" and "Marchioness of Ely" Indiamen, and arriving in the Sauger Roads, in November and December, it was removed into small sloops, and sailed to Fort William, Calcutta, where a camp had been prepared for it on the southern glacis of the fort*.

From Calcutta the regiment embarked, in 1823

* Names of the officers who embarked with the regiment for India in 1822. *Lieut.-Colonels*, F. Newbery (col.), G. H. Murray; *Major* W. Persse; *Captains* Osten, Luard, Enderley, Byrom, Greville, Ellis; *Lieutenants* Harris, Cureton, Wrottesley, Sperling, McConchy, Crossley, Menteith, Macdowell, Lovelace, McDowgall, Lowe, Armstrong, Douglas; *Cornets* Smyth, Collins, Havelock, Stewart, Osborne; *Pay-Master* G. Neyland; *Adjutant* Hilton; *Surgeon* Robinson; *Assistant Surgeons* Mulloch, Murray; *Quarter-Master* Pratt; *Veterinary Surgeon* Spencer: *Riding Master* Blood:—352 non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

1823 January, 1823, in boats, and proceeded up the Ganges about seven hundred and fifty miles, having several men drowned on the voyage up this celebrated stream; it arrived at Cawnpore, a cantonment on the right bank of the river, in April, and received six hundred and fifty horses formerly belonging to the Eighth Light Dragoons, also two hundred and twenty-nine men, volunteers from the Eighth, and one hundred and seventy-five from the Seventeenth Light Dragoons.

The regiment being thus constituted of men from different corps, required much attention to its formation and discipline, and by the zealous exertions of Colonel Newbery, it was speedily brought into so perfect a condition, that its appearance and performance elicited the unqualified approbation of General the Honorable Sir Edward Paget, G.C.B., commanding-in-chief, at the reviews and inspections in November following.

In December a squadron of the regiment commanded by Captain Greville, accompanied the Commander-in-Chief, as an escort, on a visit of state to the Nawab of Oude, whose court was held at Lucknow, the capital of his dominions.

The regiment remained at Cawnpore, occa- 1824
sionally suffering very severely from cholera, during the year 1824.

In January, 1825, the right squadron was 1825
suddenly ordered to march, under the command of Major Persse, upon *Calpee*, in consequence of an insurrection having broken out, headed by a petty chieftain; and the British resident, Sir Henry Durrel, and his native guard, were besieged in the residency. After a harassing march of above fifty miles in less than twenty-four hours, the squadron approached the town, when the insurgents dispersed: for two days the SIXTEENTH halted at Calpee, and on the third commenced their march back to Cawnpore.

While the SIXTEENTH Lancers were at Cawnpore, the Rajah of Bhurtpore, Baldeo Singh, died in terms of alliance with the British, who had taken his son under their protection. On the Rajah's death, his nephew, Doorjun Sal, having previously formed a party in the army, excited a rebellion, gained possession of the capital, and seated himself on his cousin's throne. To remove the usurper, and to establish the youthful prince in his possessions, a British army took the field. The SIXTEENTH left Cawnpore on the 10th of

1825 November, under the command of Major Persse; Colonel Newbery being promoted to the rank of Major-General, and Colonel Murray being placed in command of a brigade. When the regiment was at Etamadpore, General Viscount Combermere passed through the camp on his way to Agra, to assume the command of the grand army assembling on the western frontier, and the regiment turned out and greeted his Lordship as an old SIXTEENTH officer.

On the following day the regiment crossed the Jumna by a bridge of boats, and joined the second division of the army encamped on a fine plain about a league from Agra.

The army advanced, in the early part of December, from Agra and Muttra, to attack *Bhurtpore*, the capital of the usurper's dominions, a fortress of immense strength, deemed impregnable by the natives, and garrisoned by about twenty-five thousand men, principally Jauts and Arabs, commanded by Doorjun Sal in person. The British forces amounting also to about twenty-five thousand men, arrived in the vicinity of the city of Bhurtpore on the 9th of December. Soon after daylight on the following morning, Brigadier-General Murray's brigade made a re-

connoissance towards the Bund, on the north- 1825
west side of the fortress. On approaching this place an encampment of the enemy's cavalry was discovered, with their piquets at a village and their patroles on the skirts of a large wood which extended to the immediate vicinity of the walls. The skirmishers of the SIXTEENTH under Captain Luard, and a party of irregular native horse under Major Fraser, made a combined flank movement, and intercepting and charging the Bhurtpore horsemen, as they attempted to escape to an outwork, killed about ninety men. The two supporting squadrons, that of the SIXTEENTH under Lieutenant Cureton, and of the Sixth Native Cavalry under Lieut.-Colonel Beacher, carried the village in front, and killed several adversaries. The guns of the fortress opened a heavy fire upon the brigade, but with little effect. The conduct of the SIXTEENTH, on this occasion, was commended by the commander of the brigade; their loss was two horses killed; Lieutenant Armstrong, one serjeant, one rank and file, and five troop horses wounded.

Bhurtpore was invested in a circle of about eighteen miles: the SIXTEENTH were encamped on a plain to the westward of the city, between

1825 the villages of Kunjowbe and Marwurrah: they formed part of the investing force, watched the roads, and pushed patroles forward to the gates of Khambar,—a fortress a few miles in the rear of the besieging army.

On the night of the 27th of December, between ten and eleven o'clock, a considerable body of the enemy's cavalry and infantry attempted to break through the first brigade of cavalry, which occupied a front of about six miles; they were checked by the piquets under Captain Luard of the SIXTEENTH Lancers, and the regiments of the brigade turning out with alacrity, the enemy was repulsed with the loss of thirty men killed, and one hundred and fifty made prisoners. The casualties of the SIXTEENTH were limited to two private soldiers and two horses wounded.

After this action had ceased, a squadron of the regiment, which had been detached to the flank, was fired upon by a regiment of native cavalry, in the dark, and a private soldier wounded, before the error was discovered.

When preparations were made for storming the fortress, a scarcity of European infantry with the army occasioned volunteers from the cavalry to be called for, each King's regiment to furnish

three officers, and eighty rank and file. Captain 1825
Luard, Lieutenants McConchy and Walker, and the regulated number of soldiers of the SIXTEENTH, volunteered for this service; but on the arrival of an additional regiment of European infantry at the camp, they were not required; in dispensing with the services of the cavalry volunteers, their readiness to engage in the assault was commended by the commander of the forces.

The city of Bhurtpore was captured by storm 1826
on the morning of the 18th of January, 1826. The cavalry were stationed round the city to prevent the escape of the garrison, and crowds of the usurper's legions rushing out were intercepted, cut down, or made prisoners; the SIXTEENTH, and other regiments of their brigade, slew, or captured three thousand Bhurtpore cavalry and infantry. Among the intercepted fugitives was the usurper, Doorjun Sal, his wife, and two sons, who attempted to escape with a chosen body of horsemen, but were made prisoners. The regiment had four horses killed; Lieutenant Lowe, one serjeant, one private soldier, and one horse wounded. Two soldiers of the SIXTEENTH taken prisoners by the enemy, during the siege, were recovered.

1826 The capture of the capital, with its magazines and stores, annihilated the military power of the Bhurtpore state; the other fortresses surrendered, and the youthful Rajah was reinstated in his authority. Thus ended this contest, in which the SIXTEENTH had performed much harassing duty, occasioned by the small fortress of Khambar, situate a few miles in the rear of the brigade, remaining in possession of the enemy, and from the enterprises of a tribe of freebooters, called Marawatties, who hovered round the camp, and carried off in the night, elephants, camels, and oxen, with inconceivable dexterity.

On the breaking up of the army, the troops were thanked in orders for their distinguished conduct during this short campaign. Prize money amounting to £1500 for each lieut.-colonel, £950 for each major, £450 for each captain, £250 for each subaltern, £12 for each serjeant-major, £8 for each serjeant, and £4 for each rank and file, was afterwards given to the troops. The officers gave the sum of £5000; £1000 to each of the four widows of European officers killed at the capture of Bhurtpore, and £1000 to be divided among the widows and orphans of European soldiers who fell on that occasion.

His Majesty, King George IV., authorized 1826
the SIXTEENTH Lancers to bear the word "BHURTPORE" on their standards and appointments, to commemorate the distinguished part taken by the regiment in reducing the rebel chief, and in restoring the lawful sovereign of Bhurtpore to his dominions.

On withdrawing from the Bhurtpore territories, the SIXTEENTH marched to the cavalry barracks at Meerut, which are situated on an extensive grass plain, and are much preferable to the quarters at Cawnpore.

During the following six years the regiment 1827
was stationed at Meerut, where Colonel Arnold joined, and assumed the command, in 1827. While at this station it received the expressions of the entire approbation of Major-General Sir Thomas Reynell, previous to his departure for England, in October, 1827; and of General Viscount Combermere, who communicated the 1828
high gratification he experienced at finding the SIXTEENTH in so excellent a state, when making a tour of inspections, in February, 1828.

On the 20th of October, 1829, Field-Marshal 1829
Earl Harcourt completed his fiftieth year as colonel of the regiment, and the day was kept

1830 as a jubilee by the officers and soldiers. In June of the following year they sustained a severe loss by the death of this highly respected nobleman, who had always evinced a deep interest and a paternal care for the welfare and reputation of the corps, which endeared him to the officers and soldiers, and occasioned his death to be much regretted. He was succeeded by Lieut.-General Sir John Ormsby Vandeleur, G.C.B., from the Fourteenth Light Dragoons

1831 In October, 1831, nine officers and two hundred and sixty soldiers, of the regiment, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Arnold, accompanied the Governor-General, Lord William Bentinck, to a meeting with the sovereign of Punjab, Maharajah Runjeet Singh. This detachment returned to Meerut in December, in which month the regiment commenced its march for

1832 Cawnpore, where it arrived on the 17th of January, 1832.

At Cawnpore the regiment received *scarlet* clothing, instead of *blue*, which it had worn since 1784.

1833 A severe attack of the cholera, in August, 1833, deprived the regiment of above sixty men in one month.

On the 15th of December the regiment lost

its senior lieut.-colonel, Brigadier-General G. H. Murray, C.B, commanding the Cawnpore station, who died after a few days' illness. He was an old and distinguished officer of the regiment, served with it in the Peninsular War, and at the battle of Waterloo, and his decease was much regretted. A handsome monument was erected to his memory, by the officers of the SIXTEENTH, in the burial-ground at Cawnpore. 1833

The regiment remained at Cawnpore until January, 1837, when it returned to Meerut, and occupied the same barracks as on the former occasion when it was stationed at that place. 1834 1837

Soon after its arrival at Meerut, the regiment furnished six officers and one hundred and eighteen non-commissioned officers and soldiers, under the command of Major Cureton, to accompany the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Henry Fane, G.C.B., on a visit to Maharajah Runjeet Singh, ruler of the Seikhs, at Lahore, the capital of his dominions. The escort, consisting of the detachment of the SIXTEENTH Lancers, a party of the Fourth Native Cavalry, Thirteenth Light Infantry, eight flank companies of Native Infantry, and a troop of Horse Artillery, was commanded by Major Cureton, and Lieutenant

1837 Pottinger performed the duty of brigade-major. After a journey of several weeks, the Commander-in-Chief arrived at the court of the Maharajah on the 10th of March, and was greeted by a pompous display of the splendour of the state, for which Eastern potentates have been celebrated. The escort was reviewed, on the 17th of March, by the Maharajah, and it was stated in general orders,—"The Commander-in-Chief has much "pleasure in communicating to the officers, non-"commissioned officers, and soldiers of the escort, "that their appearance and steadiness under "arms, this morning, met with much approbation, "and their performance of the various movements "will leave in the Punjub a very favourable "impression of their discipline."

The Maharajah made very valuable presents to the officers, and gave eleven thousand rupees (£1100) to be distributed among the non-commissioned officers and soldiers. These presents were allowed to be retained by the escort; but all other persons of the Commander-in-Chief's suite were directed to return their presents to the British political agent, or to purchase them at a valuation affixed by that officer.

After remaining seven weeks at the capital

of Runjeet Singh, General Sir Henry Fane com- 1837
menced his journey back to the British dominions, and the officers and soldiers of the SIXTEENTH returned to Meerut.

In the years 1837 and 1838 events occurred 1838
which occasioned the regiment once more to take the field. The prevalence of Russian influence at the court of Persia, and among the Barukzye chiefs;—the purposed possession of the kingdom of Affghanistan (lying between Persia and India) by the Persian monarch, which enterprise had been rendered less difficult by the previous removal of the sovereign of Affghanistan, Shah Shooja-ool-Moolk, from his throne, and the division of his kingdom among several chiefs;—the siege of Herat, an important fortress on the frontiers of Affghanistan, by a Persian army;—and the unprovoked attack made on an ancient British ally, Runjeet Singh, by Dost Mahommed Khan, who relied on Persian encouragement and assistance, were occurrences which appeared to menace the safety of the British dominions in Asia, and called for a temporary departure from those pacific councils which have marked the British policy in India. The crisis, which had arrived, rendered the character of the views of several

1838 courts very apparent, and, to arrest the progress of foreign intrigues and aggressions towards the British territory, an army was assembled to pass the Indus, and to achieve a change in the aspect of affairs beyond that river: this force was called the "ARMY OF THE INDUS." At the same time a tripartite treaty was concluded between the British, Runjeet Singh, and Shah Shooja, whereby the Maharajah of the Seikhs was guaranteed in his possessions, and bound to co-operate in the restoration of Shooja-ool-Moolk.

The SIXTEENTH Lancers, having been selected to form part of the "ARMY OF THE INDUS," marched from Meerut on the 30th of October, 1838, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Arnold*; on arriving at Delhi, they were joined by the Second Native Light Cavalry, and a battery of nine pounders drawn by camels, when Colonel Arnold assumed the command of the brigade,

* Names of the officers who served in the expedition to Affghanistan. *Lieut.-Colonels* Arnold and Persse; *Majors* Cureton and Macdowell; *Captains* Lowe, Hilton, Bere, Robinson, Fyler, and Gavin; *Lieutenants* Pratt, Meik, Wilmer, Pattinson, Inverarity, Pipon, Harriott, Pattle, Yule, Mackinnon, and Foster; *Cornets* Mitchell, Smith, Swetenham, Routh, Gwynne, Powell, and Trower; *Adjutant* Havelock; *Paymaster* Williams; *Quarter-Master* Rosser; *Surgeon* White; *Assistant Surgeons* Ross and Chapman; *Veterinary Surgeon* Hurford:—501 non-commissioned officers and soldiers, and 546 horses.

and the command of the regiment devolved on 1838
Lieut.-Colonel Persse; Adjutant Brevet-Captain Havelock performed the duty of brigade-major.

Quitting Delhi, the SIXTEENTH proceeded along the skirts of the desert, through a country never before traversed by English soldiers, where water was scarce and of bad quality, and several men died of the cholera, and, on the 28th of November, the regiment arrived at the rendezvous of the army within four miles of the Gharra, beyond which river apppeared an imposing array of crimson shawl-cloth tents and pavilions of the army of the Maharajah. At this place Major Cureton was appointed assistant adjutant-general of the cavalry, which was commanded by Major-General Thackwell. In the mean time the Persians having raised the siege of Herat, the strength of the army was reduced.

The Govenor-General arrived at the camp; the ruler of the Seikhs was with his forces, and grand reviews, interviews, and entertainments, conducted with great state and magnificence, followed in rapid succession, at which the SIXTEENTH took a conspicuous part; but the troops were soon called from these gala scenes and festivities to the more serious duties of the field.

1838 Leaving the waters of the Gharra on the 10th of December, the SIXTEENTH formed part of the van of the army in the advance upon Bhawulpore; the air was clear and healthful, the roads good, the country open, the river contiguous, and abundant supplies were ready at the end of every stage; but the march being through the country of a doubtful ally, the same precautions of piquets and patroles were observed as in an enemy's country. On the 29th of December the regiment reached the capital of the Daoodpootra state, a large city with a high wall, but of little strength.

1839 For two days the SIXTEENTH halted at Bhawulpore among a friendly people; on the third they resumed their march; and after passing the boundary of Bhawul Khan, and entering the territory of the Khyrpore Ameer, they met with less civil treatment, the inhabitants withholding aid of every kind. On the 25th of January, 1839, they arrived at Roree, where the noble river Indus, of little less than a thousand yards broad, appeared with its banks clothed with groves of date trees covering hills, which presented a striking contrast to the level plains near them, green with corn and tamarisk bushes. On

the 27th of January the cavalry passed in review 1839
before Meer Roostum. The Sindian chief expressed his admiration of the Bengal Light Cavalry, but when the SIXTEENTH Lancers began to pass, "this array of European strength, comeliness, "and complete equipment, took Meer Roostum "by surprise, and pointing alternately to the "Second Light Cavalry, and to the British files, he "exclaimed, 'Oh! that is the copy, but this is the "original.'" This review was followed by the delivering up of the important fortress of Bukkur, on the Indus, for the British to use as a place of arms during the war in Affghanistan.

Meanwhile the Bombay contingent of the grand army had met with some interruption in its advance through Lower Sinde, and part of the Bengal force quitted the bank of the Indus, to menace the city of Hyderabad. The SIXTEENTH commenced this march on the 30th of January, but were halted on the 6th of February, in consequence of the submission of the rulers of Lower Sinde.

After a halt of four days at Khandiyara, the troops retraced their steps towards the Indus, and entered the date groves and defiles of Roree on the 15th of February. A bridge of boats had,

1839 in the mean time, been thrown across the great river Indus, and on the 17th of February the regiment crossed this celebrated stream by single files without an accident.

Pursuing their journey, the SIXTEENTH arrived at Shikarpore on the 21st of February. Before the army lay sterile plains, desert regions, and lofty mountains to pass, and a scarcity of water rendered it necessary to advance by single regiments. The SIXTEENTH moved in advance, and suffered much in the desert country they traversed from the 25th of February to the 1st of March, when they arrived at Usted. The march was usually commenced in the night by the light of torches, until daylight appeared; and pursuing their route through the arid plains of Beloochistan, occasionally suffering from the predatory habits of the Belooches, the SIXTEENTH arrived, on the 10th of March, at Dadur, situated a few miles from the mouth of the Bolan Pass, which led to the country to which the army was advancing, to restore a dethroned sovereign.

Major Cureton advanced with a troop of the SIXTEENTH, and three companies of infantry, to reconnoitre the pass, and form an advance-guard to the army. This pass, through the snow-capped

mountains, extended about sixty-six miles, from 1839
Dadur, to the Dusht-i-be-doulut, or the Unhappy Desert; in some places it is not more than fifty feet wide, with gloomy craigs rising perpendicularly in awful grandeur on each side. The regiment entered these wild regions on the 16th of March, and passed the last and most difficult of the defiles on the 21st, having suffered from want of forage, and from severe thunder storms: some camp followers were murdered and baggage plundered by the Belooches.

The troops from Bengal assembled at Kwettah; half rations of grain had been issued to the cavalry horses from the 12th of March, and on the 25th the issue ceased altogether; the soldiers were placed upon half rations, the native followers upon quarter, and forage could not be procured for the horses; several men, searching for grass at a distance from the camp, were murdered. Such were the hardships which wasted the strength and diminished the numbers of the gallant troops which had overcome so many difficulties!

On the morning of the 6th of April, a patrole of ten men of the regiment, under Lieutenant Yule, was fired upon from a small mud tower.

1839 The patrole retired a short distance, dismounted, and the lieutenant and five men advanced to storm the tower. The ladder, by which the Belooches entered, had been withdrawn, and as the men of the SIXTEENTH moved forward, a sharp fire was opened from the fort. A soldier seized hold of a matchlock, which was thrust through a loop-hole to shoot at him, and by a determined effort he gained the top of the flat-roofed tower. Assisted by him, the other men ascended, and breaking through the roof, they killed five and wounded the only remaining adversary. In this gallant exploit, Private Samuel Hartwell lost an arm; the other soldiers were not injured, although several of them were grazed with the balls and singed with powder, so close was the contact whilst the enemy was in the tower.

After destroying twenty-six horses which were unable to walk, the regiment commenced its march, on the 7th of April, through the vale of Shawl; it descended the picturesque height of Kotul, full one thousand feet, into the valley of Koochlak; forded rivers; traversed a difficult country where provisions could not be procured, but the ground was spangled with hyacinths,

tulips, iris, and other gay flowers, the horses 1839
dying daily for want of food, and it passed the difficult height of Kozak, where its first Lieut.-Colonel, Brigadier-General Arnold, and Lieutenant Pattinson, having proceeded a little in advance, were fired upon by a party of Asiatic cavaliers gaily equipped and well mounted, but were not injured. The soldiers dismounted on the summit of the Kozuk, and were employed all the day in dragging the artillery with ropes over this height.

As the British surmounted every obstacle, with such patient fortitude, and penetrated Affghanistan, the chiefs of *Candahar* were struck with dismay. On the 19th of April, preparations were made to resist a menaced night attack of Affghan cavalry, but the hostile horsemen did not venture to approach, and at an early hour in the morning, Hajee Khan Kakur, the prime minister of the eldest of the Barukzye chiefs, tendered his submission. A squadron of the SIXTEENTH received him at the advanced posts, and escorted him to the tent of the British commander, Lieut.-General Sir John Keane.

The army continued its march, various classes of individuals tendering, from time to time, their submission to the Sovereign, whom the British

1839 were advancing to restore, and on the 27th of April, the SIXTEENTH arrived at Candahar, the capital of western Affghanistan, from whence the Barukzye chiefs had fled two days previously, but the horses of the regiment were so exhausted from the want of food and water as to be incapable of pursuing.

Pitching their tents in the grassy meadows of Candahar, among inclosures covered with waving crops of wheat, barley, and luxuriant lucerne, and receiving supplies of provision and forage with more regularity, the men and horses began to recover their strength; but in the levels round the city water is found a few feet from the surface, and a damp prevails which is injurious to the health, producing low fever, dysentery, and jaundice, and the SIXTEENTH suffered so severely that they had above eighty men in hospital; the great heat experienced in the tents, and a saline impregnation in the water, augmented the number of the sick.

In the environs of Candahar was a remarkable mount, forming one side of a mountain pass; by skirting it, access was gained into a picturesque valley, planted with fine trees, and watered by the Urghundab river. The officers formed parties

of pleasure to visit this beautiful spot; their tents 1839
were pitched on the margin of the stream, and, after amusing themselves with angling, they partook of an evening repast. On the 28th of May, one or two social fishing parties had been formed in the valley, and Lieutenants Inverarity and Wilmer of the SIXTEENTH, remained on the bank of the river, after the other parties had returned, until sunset. They then sent their servants, tents, and horses, towards the camp, and followed leisurely and unarmed. The moon shone brightly, and Lieutenant Inverarity was walking a little in front of his companion, unconscious of danger, when he was suddenly attacked by a band of armed men. On Lieutenant Wilmer coming up, he was surrounded by about a dozen assassins, but he defended himself with his walking-stick for some time, and then taking to flight, reached a camp of the Shah's infantry, with a single wound on the face. An armed party returned with him, and found Lieutenant Inverarity alive, but he died soon afterwards, and was interred with military honours on the 30th of May.

During the halt at Candahar, exertions were made to procure Affghan horses for the remounting of the cavalry; the brigade from Bengal had

1839 lost seven hundred and one horses from fatigue and want of food, of which number the SIXTEENTH Lancers had lost one hundred and forty-five during the last five months.

The harvest becoming ripe, stores of grain were provided, and other preparations made for reducing the remainder of the Shah's dominions to submission to his authority.

Notwithstanding the exertions of the commissariat, it was found necessary to continue the soldiers on half, and the followers on quarter rations.

Breaking up from Candahar, on the 27th of June, the army moved along a valley of dismal sterility inclosed between mountains of bare rock, to the Turnuk river, then advancing up the right bank, passed the confines of the territory recently subject to the Barukzye chiefs of Candahar, traversed the country of the Ghilzees, and arrived in the vicinity of *Ghuznee*, a fortress of great strength, garrisoned by upwards of three thousand Affghans under Moohummed Hyder, who had determined on a desperate defence, and was well provided with stores. A squadron of the SIXTEENTH accompanied the Commander-in-Chief in a reconnoissance of the place on the

21st of July; on the 22nd, the regiment supported 1839
the Shah's troops in repelling the attack of a body of mountaineers, who were fanatics of a desperate character; they were driven back with the loss of many killed and taken prisoners.

Every gate of Ghuznee had been blocked up by masonry but one; to this gate a quantity of gunpowder was brought secretly in the night, and before daylight on the morning of the 23rd of July, the gate was destroyed, and the town captured by assault. The cavalry regiments were stationed round the town to prevent the escape of the garrison, and to hold in check the numerous bands of Affghan horsemen assembled in the neighbourhood. The SIXTEENTH swept the plain to the southward of the town and intercepted many fugitives. When the Affghan horsemen learnt the fate of the town, they fled towards Cabool, leaving behind them their camp equipage and baggage.

In consequence of the severe illness of Brigadier-General Arnold, Lieut.-Colonel Persse commanded the brigade, and Major Macdowell the regiment; Major Cureton continuing his duties on the staff.

From Ghuznee the army advanced upon

1839 *Cabool*, the capital of eastern Affghanistan. Dost Moohummed Khan assembled a formidable host to oppose the march of the British, and had taken up a position near Urghundee, where he ascertained that his soldiers had resolved to abandon him, and fearing they would deliver him captive to his rival, he fled with a body of select cavalry, leaving his artillery in position. Major Cureton moved forward with a hundred chosen men of the SIXTEENTH under Captain Bere, Lieutenants Pratt, Pattle, Cornet Smith, a hundred Bengal Light Cavalry, and a party of artillery; after a march of three hours he met a body of the enemy's disbanded troops, which, after some demur about unconditional surrender, submitted; he then continued his route, took possession of the twenty-six guns and a considerable quantity of ammunition abandoned by the enemy; and afterwards made a reconnoissance to the vicinity of Cabool, marching sixty miles in twenty-four hours, through the midst of the disorganized Affghan troops, without loss.

The army advanced upon Cabool, and on the 7th of August, Shooja-ool-Moolk made his public entry into the capital of his dominions, accompanied by the British Commander-in-Chief with

a numerous suite of officers, and escorted by a 1839
squadron of the SIXTEENTH Lancers and other troops, and took possession of the palace of his forefathers from which he had been an exile many years.

After sharing in effecting the restoration of the Shah, the SIXTEENTH were encamped in the neighbourhood of the capital upwards of two months, their tents were pitched in a rich valley, surrounded by rocks, and abounding in grain, vegetables, and fruits, and the camp was supplied with every necessary in abundance. Their services in this important enterprise were afterwards rewarded with the authority of Her Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA to bear the words "AFFGHANISTAN," and "GHUZNEE" on their standards and appointments. Lieut.-Colonel Persse was honored with the dignity of Companion of the Bath. Major Cureton and Major Macdowell received the brevet rank of lieut.-colonel; and a medal was given by the restored Shah, to the officers and soldiers present at the storming of Ghuznee, which the Queen has authorized them to receive and wear. An order of merit of three classes was instituted by the Shah, called the ORDER of the "DOORANEE EMPIRE;" the deco-

1839 rations of the second class were conferred on Brigadier-General Arnold, and of the third on Lieut.-Colonel Persse, Major Cureton, and Major Macdowell.

While the regiment was encamped, near Cabool, its senior Lieut.-Colonel, Brigadier-General Arnold, died on the 20th of August, and was interred, with military honors, in the Armenian burying-ground, without the walls of the Billa Hissar*. He was succeeded in the command of the brigade by Lieut.-Colonel Persse; Lieut.-Colonel Cureton assumed the command of the regiment, and Captain Bere was appointed to the duties of assistant adjutant-general of the cavalry.

* Colonel Robert Arnold served with the SIXTEENTH Light Dragoons in Portugal, Spain, and the south of France, from 1812, to the end of the war. He was afterwards removed to the Tenth Hussars, with which corps he served at the battle of Waterloo, where he was severely wounded. In 1826 he exchanged into the SIXTEENTH Lancers, as Lieut.-Colonel, and joined them, soon afterwards, in India. He evinced great zeal and ability at the head of the Bengal cavalry brigade in the expedition to Affghanistan; his kind and affable deportment, personal bravery, and numerous virtues, procured him the affection and esteem of the officers and soldiers, and it may truly be said, never was a commander more beloved or regretted. His remains were followed to the grave by the Commander-in-Chief, Lieut.-General Sir John Keane, by the British Envoy, and by a great portion of the officers of the army. A tomb was erected over his grave by the officers of his regiment, and a tablet was placed in the church at Meerut. A monument has also been erected to his memory by the officers and soldiers of his regiment at Dorking in Surrey.

The plans of aggression by which the British 1839
empire in India was threatened, had been arrested; the chiefs of Cabool and Candahar, who had joined in hostile designs against the British interest, had been deprived of power, and the territories which they ruled had been restored to a friendly monarch; the valour, patient endurance, discipline, and conciliatory conduct of the "ARMY OF THE INDUS," had procured respect for the British name, and had confirmed in Central Asia a just impression of British energy and resources. These splendid results accomplished, part of the army was withdrawn from Affghanistan, leaving a portion of the troops in the country, where the inhabitants appeared to be discovering that the presence of the British power and influence was a guarantee for equitable rule and personal security. The SIXTEENTH Lancers were selected to form the escort of the Commander-in-Chief, Lieut.-General Sir John Keane, on his return to India, and commenced their march on the 15th of October. On the 11th of December, when fording the wide and rapid river Jilum, Captain Hilton, ten men, and thirteen horses were drowned, in consequence of mistaking the direction of the ford, the marks

1839 having been removed by the rapidity of the current.

1840 The regiment arrived at Lahore on the 25th of December, re-entered the British territories on the 1st of January, 1840, and arrived at the barracks at Meerut on the 8th of February, having lost three officers, eighty-three men, and two hundred and thirty-one horses in the expedition to the Dooranee empire.

1841 Lieut.-Colonel Persse commanded the regiment until the beginning of the year 1841, when he returned to England in consequence of ill health, and the command devolved on Lieut.-Colonel Cureton.

At the conclusion of this memoir, on the 15th of September, 1841, the SIXTEENTH, or THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF LANCERS, was occupying the barracks at Meerut, and, in the twentieth year of its service in India, during which time it has lost fourteen officers and seven hundred and fourteen non-commissioned officers and soldiers; it is still an efficient and splendid corps of light cavalry, deservedly held in high estimation for its services in India, as well as for its many gallant actions in Europe since the period of its formation.

1841.

SUCCESSION OF COLONELS

OF

THE SIXTEENTH,

OR

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS;—

LANCERS.

JOHN BURGOYNE.

Appointed 18th March, 1763.

JOHN BURGOYNE was a cavalry officer of reputation in the reign of George II.; and on the 10th of May, 1758, he was promoted from Captain in the Eleventh Dragoons to Captain and Lieut.-Colonel in the Second Foot Guards. His talents and experience occasioned him to be selected to form and discipline the second of the light cavalry regiments, which His Majesty had resolved to add to his army, now the SIXTEENTH, or THE QUEEN'S LANCERS, of which corps he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel Commandant, by commission dated the 4th of August, 1759. Previous to that period, light cavalry was little known in the British army; the value of that *arme* had, however, become appreciated, and the discipline, dexterity, and efficiency of Burgoyne's light horsemen soon attracting attention; he received from his sovereign repeated and conspicuous testimonies of his royal approbation. Colonel Burgoyne served as Brigadier-General in Portugal under the Count La Lippe and the Earl of Loudoun, whose despatches bore testimony of his gallantry and zeal for the service in the warmest terms. His conduct at the capture of Valencia de Alcantara, on the 27th August, 1762, was highly commended. In 1763 he was appointed Colonel of his regiment, which was soon afterwards honoured with the distinguished title of THE QUEEN'S regiment of Light Dragoons. In 1772, he was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and appointed governor of Fort William. When the British North American provinces revolted

against the mother country, he was placed on the staff of the army in America, and he joined the troops at Boston a short time before the battle of Bunker's-hill. In 1776 he served under Lieut.-General Carlton in Canada, and in the autumn of that year he was promoted to the rank of Lieut.-General in America.

In 1777 he was placed at the head of a small army, destined to proceed by Lakes Champlain and George to Hudson's-river, with the view of forcing its way to Albany. An erroneous idea of the loyalty of the inhabitants of this part of North America, appears to have been prevalent; the difficulties to be encountered in this enterprise from the wooded and but partially inhabited country, through which the army had to march, with the state of the roads, and the number of the troops the enemy would be enabled to assemble to oppose the advance, appear to have been overlooked. After a series of hard toil, incessant effort, and severe privation, the Indian warriors who formed part of the army, and whose predatory habits and disposition to use the tomahawk and scalping knife had been restrained, all deserted; many of the Canadians and other provincials followed this example, and after several stubborn engagements, in which the British regiments fought gallantly against an immense superiority of numbers, the Lieut.-General found himself on the banks of the Hudson's-river, with an army diminished in numbers to three thousand five hundred men, reduced in physical power by incessant toil and want of provisions, invested by an army of sixteen thousand Americans, disappointed of the hope of timely co-operation from other armies, and without provision; under these dismal circumstances he concluded a convention with the American General Gates, at Saratoga, in which he agreed that the troops should lay down their arms, on condition of being sent to England, and of not serving in America during the remainder of the war. These articles were, however, violated by the American government, and the gallant men who had fought so bravely, and who did not submit until surrounded by five times their own number, were detained prisoners in America. Lieut.-

General BURGOYNE was exposed to the fate which usually attends unsuccessful commanders, and his conduct was censured; he defended himself in Parliament with great warmth, and courted investigation; this was followed by an altercation with the members of the government, which ended in his resigning, in 1779, the Colonelcy of THE QUEEN'S Light Dragoons, —also his appointment on the staff of the army in America,—and the government of Fort William; but he retained his rank of Lieut.-General in order to be amenable to a court-martial. He was soon afterwards restored to royal favour; appointed Commander-in-Chief in Ireland; and in 1782 he was appointed Colonel of the Fourth regiment of Foot; he was also sworn a member of the privy council, and represented the town of Preston in parliament. He was an accomplished gentleman; also an able scholar, and author of a much celebrated comedy called "*The Heiress;*" and his character was further adorned with benevolence. He died on the 4th of August, 1792, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM HARCOURT.

Appointed 20th October, 1779.

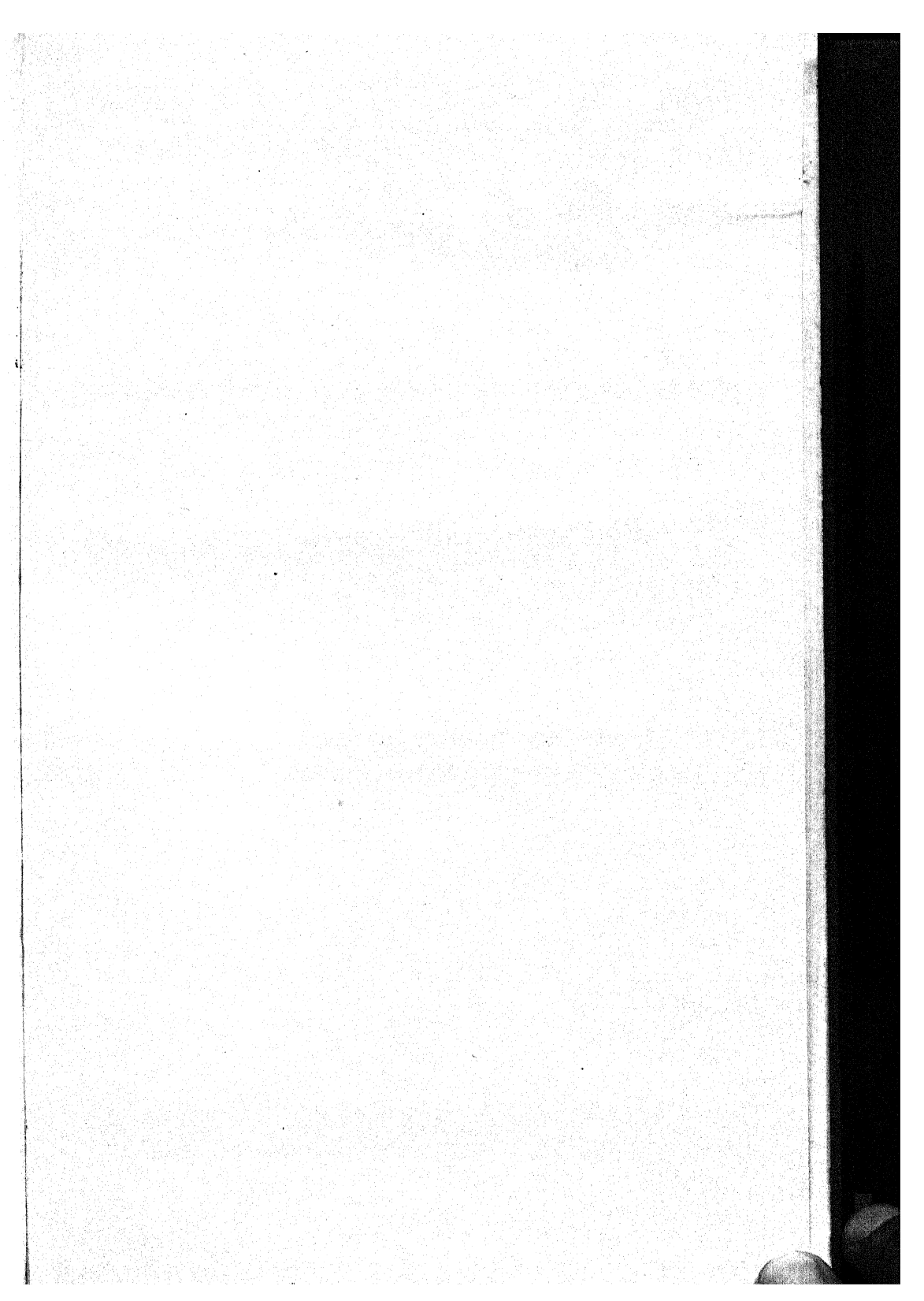
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM HARCOURT was appointed Ensign in the First Foot Guards in August, 1759, and in October following he was commissioned to raise the first augmentation troop to BURGOYNE'S regiment of Light Dragoons, now the SIXTEENTH, OR THE QUEEN'S LANCERS. In 1760 he was appointed Captain in the Third Dragoons, and in 1761, he accompanied his father, Earl Harcourt, to Germany, to conduct to England the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenberg Strelitz, afterwards consort of King George III., and he received an appointment in the Queen's household. In 1762 he served as aide-de-camp to the Earl of Albemarle at the capture of the Havannah. He was promoted to the Lieut.-Colonelcy of the Thirty-first Foot in November, 1764; was removed to the Eighteenth Light Dragoons in April, 1765, and to the SIXTEENTH in June, 1768. He

commanded the regiment in North America, and gained great reputation, particularly for the courage and ability he evinced in the capture of the American General Lee*. He was rewarded with the appointment of aide-de-camp to the King, and the rank of Colonel in the army, and, on the resignation of Lieut.-General Burgoyne, His Majesty gave him the Colonelcy of THE QUEEN'S Light Dragoons. In 1782 he was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and having purchased the mansion and estate of St. Leonard's-hill near Windsor, of the Duke of Gloucester, His Majesty appointed him deputy-ranger of Windsor great park. He commanded the cavalry in Flanders under His Royal Highness the Duke of York, with the rank of Lieut.-General, to which he was advanced in October, 1793, and signalized himself on several occasions, particularly at Tournay, on the 10th of May, 1794. On the return of His Royal Highness to England, Lieut.-General Harcourt succeeded to the command of the British troops, which he continued to hold until the embarkation of the infantry in 1795. In 1798 he was promoted to the rank of General, and on the decease of his brother in 1809, he succeeded to the dignity of EARL HARCOURT. He was invested with the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath in 1820: in 1821 he carried the Union Standard at the coronation of King George IV., and was immediately afterwards promoted to the rank of Field-Marshal. He was a member of the Consolidated Board of General Officers, a Commissioner of the Royal Military Hospital, and of the Royal Military Asylum at Chelsea. After serving the crown a period of seventy-one years, and commanding THE QUEEN'S Light Dragoons, (Lancers,) upwards of fifty years, this distinguished veteran died at his seat at St. Leonard's-hill on the 18th of June, 1830.

SIR JOHN ORMSBY VANDELEUR, G.C.B.

Appointed 18*th June*, 1830.

* See page 25, of the Record of the SIXTEENTH, OR THE QUEEN'S LANCERS.



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